

HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST  
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF  
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY  
1996



*Published by*  
THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY  
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR  
CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA



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# Presidential Address

To the 121st Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society, Adyar,  
26 December 1996

Once again we are happy to meet together and to rededicate ourselves to the great work and ideals of the Theosophical Society. It is a privilege and joy to welcome all of you again to our International Headquarters, to beautiful Adyar, and to wish everyone present the benefit of deep inspiration and a renewed sense of purpose. Let us turn in reverence to those Great Ones under whose aegis the Society came to birth and continues to function, and let Their blessing fill our hearts with aspiration to serve this world sunk in sorrow and pain. May all our selfish impulses and trivial thoughts be driven out, opening the way to the lofty influences ever flowing down from the higher worlds of being.

**May Those who are the embodiments of Love immortal bless with Their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for Their work. May They inspire it with Their wisdom, strengthen it with Their power, and energize it with Their activity.**

The Theosophical Society began its mission in the last century with a strong sense of purpose and much inspiration, without which it could not have expanded rapidly throughout the world as it did. Not only the Founders and the leaders who succeeded them, but a galaxy of lesser known Theosophists kindled a light in the hearts of a vast number of people by communicating to them new ideas about life and mutual relationships. Their example of self-sacrifice and service gave vitality to the branches of the Society, and the work done stimulated members of the public to higher ends. Such a sense of inspiration as well as the example of members dedicated to the welfare of the world are essential if the

Theosophical Society is to remain vibrant and influential in raising human consciousness to higher levels.

All of us members of the Society present here, along with those who are with us in spirit, must share the responsibility of maintaining the flow of theosophical inspiration undiminished. Wherever it is weak, we must jointly find the means for regeneration. Although we had the good fortune to be guided in the past by outstanding persons like the Founders and Annie Besant, the future influence of the Society should not be envisaged as dependent on the few. It must be built upon the dedication, understanding, and selfless service of the many. When there is the right quality in the



membership, from time to time a bright figure might emerge to lead the way, but that may happen only if all of us take a share of the responsibility for preparing the ground.

Whenever inspiration seems to come from outside, from a person of higher understanding than ourselves, it really springs from within ourselves. As Annie Besant said:

Has it never struck you in what lies the power of the speaker, whence comes the strength with which he moves a crowd? It does not lie in himself; it lies not in his own power, but in the power he is able to evoke from the men and women he addresses, from the human hearts he wakes. It is their energy and not his in the tide of his speech. The orator is but the tongue that syllables out the thoughts in the hearts of the people; they are not able to speak them, they are not able to articulate them. The thoughts are there, and when some tongue puts them into speech, when the other inarticulate sense takes the force of the spoken word, then they think it is oratory. It is their own hearts that move them, and it is this voice, inarticulate in the people, which from the lips of the speaker makes the power that rings from land to land.

The spiritual nature within us, normally shrouded by the vestures it assumes, is kindled from time to time by a lecture, a passage in a book, a quiet moment in Nature, or by compassion for the sorrow of others. The response comes from a state of sensitivity for which we must make room in our consciousness, and then inspiration will not be lacking. The consciousness is then fresh and full of

vitality.

Deep and thoughtful study of the wisdom teaching, and dwelling on the principles rather than on details, is a powerful aid in making our work effective. Through such study, the consciousness learns to respond to the beautiful and the significant. The reflective approach to study also enables us to grasp what is essential for clarifying the problems of life, and for proceeding through daily incidents and encounters with maturity and dignity. Entanglement with details, on the other hand, results in confusion.

Many millions of volumes are being produced today, and a vast amount of unrelated information is available to confuse the mind. In order to counteract this, it would be well if theosophical groups and Lodges would direct attention to the principles and fundamental ideas in Theosophy that shed light on daily living and hence are of profound practical value.

The study of books is far from beneficial if it converts the reader into a believer and thus creates one more division in the world. The Adept, it is said, is one who has verified for himself the truths of life, even though they have already been realized by generations of enquirers. Each of the Adepts labours hard before directly experiencing what would otherwise have only been hearsay. A truth is not truth to one who has not examined what he or she has heard so thoroughly and deeply that it is a directly realized, incontrovertible fact. Concurrence with the words of others, however enlightened they may be, does not mean knowing the truth; it is



knowing about the truth. To quote Annie Besant again, the study of theosophical books calls for 'a bright intelligence, a keen mind, an eager intellect, a thoughtful and critical reason'. She advises that the observations of others should be held as hypotheses until they are known at first hand in one's own heart:

AB on Study  
If they illuminate obscurities, if they conduce to sound morality, take them and use them; but never let them become fetters to your mind, gaoles of your thought. Study these books, but do not swallow them; understand them, but hold your judgement in suspense; these books are useful servants but dangerous masters; they are to be studied, not worshipped... Is it not time to offer to Truth the homage of study instead of that of blind credulity? Let us ever be ready to correct a mistaken impression or an imperfect observation, to walk with open eyes and mind alert, remembering that the best service to Truth is examination.

We also know that learning through study of recorded wisdom must be supported by study of the human mind at work in oneself and in others, and of the book of Nature. Self-knowledge is the foundation of all other knowledge, because our consciousness is the instrument of all knowledge. Quoting from *The Mahatma Letters*:

He who is desirous to learn how to benefit humanity, and believes himself able to read the characters of other people, must begin, first of all, to learn to know himself, to appreciate his own character at its true value. (ML, 219)

In theosophical literature, much information has been provided about

the human constitution. This is no doubt useful, particularly in helping people to overcome the fear of death, and to understand that the essential element in the human being is divine, while the lower nature belongs to the past, to evolutionary stages which must be transcended. But the knowledge provided on this subject in books remains ineffective as a means to rise above the lower nature, if the student fails to watch his own comportment, impulses and reactions with honesty and care. The past inheritance which compels a person to commit blind acts of greed, violence or pride is transcended and replaced by a harmonious and intelligent way of living only when there is detached self-study and the study of the mind in general.

Another aspect of theosophical work is devotion to service. As *At the Feet of the Master* teaches, 'You must be so filled with the intense desire of service that you are ever on the watch to render it to all around you — not to man alone, but even to animals and plants.' This attitude disperses selfish tendencies. As we learn to respond to the beauty and value of plant, animal or human being, all forming part of the one great life, the mind becomes lucid. Progress in knowledge is not merely a matter of intellectual development, but an opening of one's entire nature in love, harmony, and deep understanding. It means ending intolerance in any form, ceasing to assess things as high or low, important or unimportant. It is that condition described in the *Bhagavadgītā* which is found in sages



for whom a Brāhmana adorned with learning and humility, a cow, an elephant, a dog or an outcaste are the same — equally divine and precious.

For the ever-existent, innate inspiration within the heart to light one's path and help others, a certain way of life composed of study, self-awareness and service must be adopted. Study that is thoughtful gives depth; self-awareness purifies; and readiness to serve teaches love. Let us therefore study with alert and open minds; intelligently observe what sullies and binds consciousness; and engage ourselves in such service as will enlarge affection and understanding.

The Theosophical Society could become a wonderful force in the future, surpassing the accomplishments of the past, provided we dedicate ourselves to the task. If we wait for miracles, nothing may happen, but if we offer ourselves unselfishly to a life of pure service, help may come from higher levels.

\* \* \*

The TS in America has for a long time ranked next to India in membership. The National President, Dr John Algeo, reports that last year several new study centres were certified and others are progressing towards certification. He has thoroughly revised the content and form of the letters to new members. It might be of interest for office-bearers elsewhere to utilize them and also the correspondence courses and other forms of continuing participation as a basis for similar contacts with new

members, as in many countries new members account largely for the lapsings. We need to do much more work to sustain their initial interest by further contacts.

The annual meeting and summer school held in 'Olcott' in July 1996 had Miss Joy Mills and myself as guests. During this period, two new endeavours were launched, namely the setting-up of a Website on Internet and the inauguration of a National Lodge. Dr Algeo has offered to include material in the Website about work in other countries. There is already information about activities in Adyar on this site, including the international directory, and about the Convention and the School of the Wisdom. The main page of the Website provides basic information about the TS, Theosophy, membership, correspondence and self-study courses and programmes of the Section.

Dr Algeo also informs us that there are a number of individuals putting up Web pages claiming to be theosophical, but many of them are unconnected with our Society and of doubtful value and variable in quality. Many more misleading, spurious and unconnected sites are likely to come into existence. Members and Sections should not assume that everything on Internet which is called theosophical emanates from our Society and is a correct representation of our work and aims. It is best under the circumstances for all our Sections and units which need to publicize their existence and activities to profit from the offer of the American Section and also obtain genuine information from



them. Our American headquarters staff are checking on the sources from which so-called theosophical material is transmitted.

The National Lodge has been chartered for the benefit of those who are not in contact with a theosophical group and for those who wish to enlarge contacts nationwide. It is proposed to offer them online a 'coherent and comprehensive study of the theosophical philosophy and a consistent and practical application of the philosophy to one's daily life'. The report from the US also mentions success in the publishing field. Awards were received for some new publications; and paperback rights for a new Quest book were sold to a major publishing company, namely Bantam Doubleday Dell, which enhances the status of Quest publications.

In neighbouring Canada work is going on satisfactorily, considering the upheaval there just a few years ago. They were happy to receive visits from Mrs Shirley Nicholson, Miss Joy Mills and myself. The distances are enormous and contacts are not too easy. However, there is a bright prospect of the Federation growing in strength.

The Indian Section membership continues to be nearly 11,000. It is the only Section which has to cope with work in ten or more languages. Although the common language is English, in order to reach the population in general, work has to be done in all the major languages. It is not easy to bring out literature for all the linguistic areas or find suitable lecturers and study leaders. The

General Secretary visited many Lodges during the year supported by several national lecturers. In April, while on a private visit to the US, he made acquaintance with the American Section Headquarters. He also visited Malaysia and Singapore. There were a number of conferences and study camps in the Section throughout the year. Two books were published in Hindi, the most widely spoken of the Indian languages, namely Leadbeater's *Invisible Helpers* and *The Universal Law of Life* by Annie Besant. *The Indian Theosophist* goes out to 5,500 members every month, besides which magazines in other languages also serve to disseminate Theosophy.

In nearby Sri Lanka activities are still concentrated in the headquarters at Colombo, although Lodges in some other places are being reactivated. The General Secretary, Mr Melwin Herath, was invited by the Australian Section to the Study and Retreat Centre of the Australian TS in Springbrook, Queensland, to participate in their study course on *The Secret Doctrine*. Mr Herath also visited Fiji where he has friends, with a view to starting a Lodge there. Let us hope that the work in Sri Lanka will regain strength.

Three Lodges are functioning in Pakistan, two in Karachi and the third in Hyderabad, Sind. There is a fine library in Karachi Lodge with a reading room open daily to the public. Besant Lodge in Hyderabad has had ups and downs. Mrs Gool Minwalla, Presidential Representative, says that during one of its bad spells most of the books in the library were stolen or destroyed. Now an effort is being made



to replenish it. The old building of the Lodge is being renovated with generous donations from the Mahtani foundation. They would be happy to have suitable lecturers in Pakistan from time to time.

On the other side of India, in Bangladesh, there are two Lodges; one being the hundred-year-old Comilla Lodge with its own building, and the other, the newly established Lodge at Chittagong. Contact with them is not easy or continuous, but we know that some activities are going on.

The Indonesian Section organized a successful exhibition of books on Theosophy in Jakarta, in connection with the annual meeting, where very interesting information about the role of the Indonesian TS in the revival of national consciousness and the independence movement was presented by a historian from the University of New South Wales. Another study to which the General Secretary refers in his report was presented at the Catholic University in Nijmegen, in the Netherlands, on Theosophy in relation to labour and to the national and women's movements in Indonesia and South Asia between 1875 and 1947. Part of the Section's plan to provide each group with the seven theosophical manuals was carried out and a few other publications were also issued.

The Philippine Section has been organizing self-transformation seminars, parts of which have been presented to officials, teachers, supervisors in industry and others. Four new study groups were formed, while one previously existing study

group was chartered as a Lodge. Considerable activity is carried on by the TOS. The membership of the Section has fallen since last year.

Singapore Lodge has been active with regular lectures and other programmes. Thanks to intensive efforts on the part of the Lodge President, Mrs Manize Sait, and her colleagues, they have succeeded in making a long overdue move to a different location. In Malaysia, Selangor and Seramban, the Lodges are functioning under the leadership of Mrs Padma Narayanan. They are planning to host the next Indo-Pacific Federation meeting at Kuala Lumpur in 1997. The lodge in Penang also meets regularly.

In Japan there are three Lodges, in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka. We are told that a great deal of work must yet be done for the TS to get off the ground in Japan; but the number of active workers is increasing. The Lodge in Seoul, South Korea, is keeping in touch with Adyar and has regular study programmes. They would welcome suitable visitors.

Efforts by expatriate members to revive theosophical activities in Viet Nam are continuing. A fund has been set up in France for this work, with an initial donation from the International Society. Mr Huynh Ai Chung has travelled from France to Viet Nam a number of times, trying to obtain approval from the government to re-establish the TS. As suggested by the authorities, some social work has been started.

The highlight of the year in New Zealand was the Centenary Convention



which was held in the town of Hamilton, with Miss Joy Mills and the present General Secretary of the Australian Section, Mrs Champion, and myself as guests. A special issue of *Theosophy in New Zealand* presents interesting material on the history of the Section. The General Secretary, Mr Gavin Laurie, visited all the groups and was supported by a team of speakers and some visiting lecturers. The problems in Christchurch have been to a large extent solved, and the Lodge is functioning. HPB Lodge in Auckland, with the largest membership in New Zealand, will probably have a fine new building adjacent to the TS Headquarters by next year.

The Springbrook Centre in Australia which was mentioned earlier has developed as a fine venue for members to gather for study, brotherhood and meditative living in the midst of beautiful natural surroundings. This year's guest lecturers in Australia were Mr Alan Senior from Scotland, and the Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson. The TOS in Australia was active in supporting gun-control measures, the banning of landmines and the education of underprivileged children in India and Pakistan. Plans are proceeding to hold the World Congress in Sydney from 12 to 20 January 2001.

Mr T.G. Davis reports that the TS in Southern Africa has been active in spite of problems like the crime rate, which makes it difficult for people to attend Lodges. On the other hand improved publicity has brought good results and increased attendance. The Section will commemorate its

centenary in 1998. The National Convention was held in Johannesburg over Easter, with Mr B.R. Vora, General Secretary of the East African Section, as guest speaker. Mr Vora also visited Durban, Capetown and Pretoria Lodges. A new theosophical centre was opened in Lenasia, thanks to Mr Ebrahim Mohamed.

Mr Vora deplores the steady decline of membership in East and Central Africa due to the emigration of members of Asian origin to other countries. The work is spread over a very wide area comprising three countries, and travel is difficult. But in all the countries there are good bookstalls. Service activities have included distribution of aid for the aged, help to street children, protection of animals and donations to many charitable causes.

Mr Paul Kwakyi reports from West Africa that at long last the ground floor of the headquarters building at Accra has been completed and history was made when the West African Section's 39th Annual Convention was opened in the new building at the end of June. A special advertisement and radio and television announcements were used to invite unattached members and the public. Members from Nigeria, Liberia and the Cameroons could not attend due to economic and other difficulties. The TOS, directed by Mrs A.A. Tutu, has now a special room in the headquarters building reserved for healing services. The sale of books both in West and East Africa has been encouraging. From the International Headquarters, donations of books have



been made and help will be given in whatever way possible. The obstacles faced in Africa and the third world in general need to be seen in order to be understood.

The annual convention of the Cuban Section was held with the theme 'The Wisdom in the Secret Doctrine, a Path to the Heart'. Studies and other programmes are taking place regularly in the different Lodges. The course on basic Theosophy is reported by the General Secretary, Dra Lelia F. Pagola, to have 'a marvellous attendance and positive results'. A number of members have emigrated to other countries, which has reduced the numerical strength of the Section. As usual, they are faithfully setting aside the 15% dues owed to Adyar, which they cannot send out legally.

In Chile there are now four Lodges and one study group. The Section publishes in its own journal articles translated from *The Theosophist* and other magazines. A fifteen-minute broadcast is made every week from both Santiago and Valparaiso, informing the public of activities. The introductory courses are said to have good results. A small group is working actively for the protection of animals, trees and the environment. Activities are also going on steadily in Bolivia. They had Mr Ulisses Resende, General Secretary for Brazil, and Mr and Mrs Juan Carlos Palmeri as visitors.

In Uruguay until now there was no Lodge outside the capital city of Montevideo. Now, by keeping in contact with sympathizers outside the city, a new group has been formed in Maldonado, which meets every week.

Otherwise the work goes on regularly, including the weekly radio programme for the public. There have been problems in communicating with the members in Puerto Rico, and after a long interval we have been informed that a new General Secretary was elected according to the rules.

The report from Brazil says that they have 886 members in good standing. Regional conferences and national gatherings, including the summer school, were organized. The report mentions that a youth camp held in July was an outstanding event, with youngsters from Brazil and Argentina. Mr Alfredo Puig, retiring General Secretary, lectured in several South and Central American countries. Brazilian members participated in the summer school of the Argentine Section held in San Raphael, and also at another gathering in Rio Cuarto in the same country. Several youth activities took place in Argentina.

In Mexico, the General Secretary visited all the Lodges and study centres. Three new Lodges were started and regional seminars were organized. They were happy to receive visits from Dr and Mrs John Algeo and Mr Alfredo Puig. In Costa Rica activities are continuing in the three Lodges. Basic courses, lasting four months, were held. They also received a visit from Mr Alfredo Puig. For the first time a group has been formed outside the capital city of San Jose, in a place called San Ramon.

The work in Venezuela is better organized in accordance with constitutional requirements. Public



lectures, meditation workshops and children's activities were all part of the programmes of the Lodges. The Presidential Agent, Miss Mariela Lasso Salas, has been travelling regularly to Venezuela from Colombia in order to help the work there.

Because of difficulties of communication, the former Central American Section will be certified as a Regional Association, without the Lodges in Costa Rica. It will consist of the Lodges in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Weekly meetings and studies continue. Much work has to be done in the whole of Central America, which has suffered greatly from the chaotic political situation.

The seven Lodges in Sweden held regular programmes and lectures on theosophical themes. Prof. P. Krishna was guest speaker at their summer school in May, which they appreciated very much. In addition to usual activities they organized a retreat in the Norwegian mountains. Among publications which are being prepared are Shirley Nicholson's *Ancient Wisdom, Modern Insight* and *No Other Path to Go* by myself. The Swedish TOS sent help to an orphanage in Latvia. In Oslo, monthly meetings were held as well as a seminar on 'What is Theosophy?' Difficulties are being faced which they hope to solve during the coming year. The group of workers in Norway is very small, but Mr Tobiassen, the General Secretary, says that they work systematically and are determined to improve the Section. The group in Denmark is also still quite small, but they too are steadily carrying on. Public lectures are held in

the centre of Copenhagen and nearby, and at Aarhus study classes are going on. Every three months 'News and Views' are presented through a newsletter.

The Finnish Section organizes public lectures in Helsinki and also in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Mr Hannu Vienonen continues to visit Estonia to lecture not only in Tallinn, but in other towns also. The Finnish summer school had two guest speakers, namely Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu and Prof. Henryk Skolimowsky. The theme was 'Man as a part of Nature and the Universe'. There are twenty-four Lodges and two study groups in the Section.

Variety characterizes the work in Iceland, consisting of public lectures followed by refreshments at a reasonable price; 'open house', with a short lecture followed by a discussion and tea; beginners' meditation courses as well as meditation in silence for advanced groups; self-culture programmes; reading of books and discussion, and so forth. They have recently introduced letters to new members. The General Secretary, Mr Adalsteinsson, reports that the library was reopened after two decades of hibernation, after which some new people joined the TS. Several booklets have been published.

The Dutch Section published a translation of *Yama and Niyama* by Mr S.S. Varma, and lectures on *Right Living in Modern Society* by Prof. P. Krishna. One of the members is working on a history of the Dutch Section during the past hundred years. The General Secretary, Mrs



Ritsema, expresses the hope that the decline in membership will stop, as activities are attracting more people and also in some lodges the study is at a deeper level.

The Belgian Section finds it difficult to organize lectures for the public, because lecturers are not available. Therefore they have colloquia and other participatory meetings, which are more attractive and result in closer relationships. They have to face a campaign in the Press against sects. In one of the newspaper articles, the TS is described as being 'not a sect itself, but the ante-room of the sects'. Sadly, wrong impressions about the TS exist in many parts of the world, even after more than a hundred years. The Swiss Section is reported to be active, having the same kind of programmes as before. The French-speaking summer school was held at a beautiful place in Switzerland with myself, the Vice-President and Prof. Krishna among participants.

The General Secretary of the Italian Section also mentions the difficulties they face because 'careless scholars and superficial journalists' classify the TS among dubious sectarian organizations. During the year four new Lodges were chartered. The total membership is 1,136, the largest in Europe. Their magazine is distributed widely and the list of subscribers is increasing. A number of publications were brought out during the year. In cooperation with the European Federation, a seminar was organized in the Bergamo district as part of a programme to enlarge the members'

knowledge of Theosophy.

The General Secretary of the French Section visited the French-speaking Lodges and groups in West Africa. He reports that people there find it difficult to pay the dues of the French Section and, following his recommendation, steps are being taken to establish independent Regional Associations in Togo, the Ivory Coast and perhaps later on in the Congo. Public meetings and other activities go on as usual in France. The National Convention held in June had as its theme 'Freeing Oneself from the Burden of the Past'.

In Spain the Annual Convention had as guest speakers Miss Ianthe Hoskins and Mr Geoffrey Farthing, who spoke on *The Mahatma Letters*, with the participation of about 150 members. The HPB Institute set up in Madrid arranged for courses on Theosophy, suited to both members and non-members, not only in Madrid, but also in Barcelona, Alicante, Cordoba and other places. Of the four study groups, one has already applied to be chartered as a Lodge. The courses in Madrid attracted about forty-five persons, and included not only lectures, but visits to museums and other places. The Section's magazine *Sophia*, published from Barcelona, has a wide distribution in Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries. A brochure on *The Essential Work of the Theosophical Society* is given to all the new members. Perhaps this could be done in other areas also.

The report from Germany mentions that in spite of efforts in what used to



be East Germany, new groups have not so far been established. The summer school was held in July in Weimar, with the participation of the Vice-President and Dr Yves Marcel. The General Secretary says that this annual event had a special note, because of the link between Weimar and the great thinkers Goethe and Schiller. Another comment of his is relevant to many areas; namely that the public relations work of most groups is too modest.

There is a Regional Association in Slovenia, and the three Lodges composing it study and discuss a wide variety of theosophical subjects. Very few members know foreign languages and the publications available in Slovenian translation are too few. The Organizing Secretary reports that in Koper, with rare exceptions, all members attend weekly meetings. What a record! A summer school was held in July with lectures by Miss Anderson and Mr Hans Nickel.

In Austria also there are only three Lodges — in Graz, Vienna and Linz — and activities continue as usual. The summer school was held in Rohrbach, the theme being 'Esoteric Knowledge in Daily Life'. Miss Mary Anderson conducted a seminar on 'The Influence of the Secret Doctrine on Daily Life'.

In Budapest monthly public lectures attracted thirty to forty persons. Two study groups meet regularly. The Presidential Representative was invited for lecture-discussions to two towns outside Budapest and to Arad in Rumania. The Chairman of the European Federation, Miss Tran-Thí-Kim-Diêu, and Mr Curt Berg,

former Chairman, conducted seminars in Moscow as well as Dnepropetrovsk, which were well attended, particularly by younger people. Steady effort is being made to disseminate Theosophy more widely in Russia, the Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

Covenant Lodge in Tel Aviv has meetings every fortnight and is studying *The Mahatma Letters* and *Light on the Path*. Stress is laid on the fundamental teachings of Theosophy, and discussions have been held on how to communicate them to the public. Every fortnight a public meeting is held, starting with a guided meditation. Once a month they hire a bus and go to a beautiful and quiet place for study and meditation. Mr Abraham Oron, President of the Lodge, reports that this attracts more participants to courses and meetings, as people experience serenity, joy and real brotherhood at these gatherings. Two seminars during the year were on the subject 'Listen to the Heart of the Universe' and 'Living from the Heart', with 120 and 160 participants. In Tel Aviv introductory courses on Theosophy as well as a meditation course were held. They published *The Voice of the Silence*, *At the Feet of the Master*, and two other books in Hebrew.

The English Section has 42 Lodges and 7 Centres with 1,163 members. Every year the membership has been going down, although it is reported that the larger Lodges all hold meetings for members and for enquirers and also study meetings. There were many activities at the



National Headquarters in London and seminars and conferences at Tekels Park. In June a special function was held in London in order to present the Subba Row Medal to Mr Geoffrey Farthing, with myself and the Vice-President, Miss Anderson, participating.

After it had functioned for some years as a Presidential Agency, elections were held in the TS in Scotland and recently it was certified as a Regional Association. It is reported that all the new Lodges have expanded during the year. Both in England and Scotland, they were happy to welcome Dr and Mrs Algeo and to hear him speak. The problems which existed in Glasgow have ended and their work is taking a more constructive turn. In Edinburgh the library is open more frequently and work goes on harmoniously.

In Wales, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, work progresses steadily. In Dublin a few new people have become interested and we continue to hope that growth will take place some time and there will once again be an Irish Section.

Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin reports that the TOS bulletin which was recently started, *The Service Link*, appears to be helping to forge stronger links between workers. Readers are encouraged to be active in social service, world peace, environment, animal welfare, healing, and so forth. There is increased interest in certain areas as a result of better communication.

I made two trips outside India during the year. In January, I travelled

to New Zealand to participate in the Centenary Convention of the Section. It was a memorable event, and provided an opportunity to meet workers from different parts of the Section. In June, I again went abroad, first of all to be with members at the French-speaking summer school held in Switzerland and then at the annual convention and summer school of the TS in America. It was a pleasure to be at 'Olcott' again. I also visited some other parts of the US — New Jersey and New York, Krotona in California, Portland and Seattle in the West, and finally Vancouver. My travels took me to different parts of India also. In February I conducted studies on *The Voice of the Silence* in Bhavnagar, returning via Bombay (now called Mumbai) and Pune. In October, the same book was studied at the Indian Section headquarters. In between there were engagements in Kerala, Bangalore, Guntur and a few other places.

Miss Mary Anderson, Vice-President, lectured in several countries in Europe during the summer, and then toured Australia in October. As already mentioned, Dr Phan travelled to Africa and spoke to practically all the French-speaking Lodges and groups there. Many other lecturers have of course given time and energy for this kind of work for which we are thankful.

At Adyar we lost two long-time, devoted workers. One was Mr K. Ramanathan, who was Manager of the Vasanta Press for a number of years, but also held positions of responsibility in the Publishing House



and elsewhere. Another devoted worker, who like Mr Ramanathan came to Adyar as a young man, was Mr N. Janakiram. He was Assistant Secretary during the last few years, but had worked in several other departments earlier. It is hard to replace such stalwarts who were dedicated and unsparing in their service to the Society.

The Theosophical Publishing House had a good year under the capable management of Mr D.K. Govindaraj, who is also the Honorary Treasurer. Prices of books have been reduced in order to make them available to larger numbers of people; at the same time the quality of paper has been improved, good paper now being available in India. The equipment in the Editorial Office is being upgraded, and during the coming year we plan to improve some of the machinery in the Vasanta Press. Among the publications of the year is a new book by Stephen Phillips, author of *The ESP of Quarks and Superstrings*, entitled *Evidence of a Yogic Siddhi: Animā*. Two books long out of print were reprinted, namely *YOU* by G.S. Arundale and *Reincarnation and Islam*.

A special issue of the Adyar Library Bulletin, *Brahma Vidyā*, was published to honour the late Prof. C. Kunhan Raja, a learned indologist who was Curator of the Adyar Library and resident at Adyar for several years. He was responsible for many publications in the Adyar Library Series. Preliminary work is being done to computerize the Library, under Mr Carlos Cabral from Mexico.

In February and March, Miss Joy

Mills conducted studies on *The Mahatma Letters* for a band of enthusiastic students in the School of the Wisdom. The theme of the second session from October to December was 'Modern Science and the 'Ancient Wisdom', with Dr H.J. Arnikaar, Prof. Emeritus of Chemistry, University of Poona, as Director. Among the guest speakers at this session were Prof. C.T. Phan from Paris, Prof. P. Krishna from Varanasi, Prof. C.A. Shinde from Sangli, Dr V.V. Chalam and Dr S. Inamdar from Bangalore.

The work of the Olcott Education Society has proceeded satisfactorily. The Olcott school has been given permanent recognition by the State Government, which was necessary after the change was effected from being a government-aided school to a self-financing one. Recognition has also come in other ways. New Zealand's Associate Minister of Education, Mr Roger McClay, who was a State guest, accompanied by the Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand, visited the school in March. The Headmistress, Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan, and two teachers received awards for their contribution to the Gandhian way of education at a function over which the State Governor presided.

The Social Welfare Centre and the HPB hostel are working satisfactorily. In the hostel, Mrs Gayatri Devi was appointed warden in the place of Mrs L. Seethalakshmi. From June, the Banyan Centre for educators organized discussions with principals and teachers, led by Mr G. Anantha Padmanabhan of the KFI school, on



crucial subjects such as the role of schools in preserving culture and ways to make learning a joy for children in spite of a heavy curriculum. A campaign against dissection in schools was also carried on by Banyan, supported by alternative experiments. Happily there are strong indications that dissection is being dropped by one of the Boards in Delhi to which a large number of schools in India are affiliated.

A new dining-hall has been built for Leadbeater Chambers, replacing the old thatched shed which people liked so much. But thatched sheds have their drawbacks, having to be replaced every two years, and being a home for a variety of little creatures. We hope the solid new version will also be liked. Two new bungalows and a building for editorial work are also being constructed. We are taking great care to see that the greenery of Adyar is not affected. On the contrary, new planting is being done regularly.

The following staff changes have taken place. Mr Conrad Jamieson was appointed Secretary in place of Mr Pedro Oliveira on 18 September 1996. He held the same office a few years ago. Mr R.V. Narayanan is now in charge of the Garden Department in place of Mr Arjun Gopalaratnam, and is doing the work with zeal. Mr R. Kalyanasundaram is now the Superintendent of Bhojanasala and Mrs Radha Harihara Raghavan is assisting with the work in Leadbeater Chambers. Lt. Col. T.P. Rajkumar was appointed Security Officer in July in place of Mr D.V. Subramaniam, who was put in charge of Movable

Properties, while Mr S.M. Amarnath Rao assists Mr Jamieson in the Secretary's office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank with all my heart the colleagues and workers in the different departments without whose willing support and readiness to help the work at Adyar cannot go on. Every worker, whether prominent or not, is valuable and our gratitude is due to all of them, particularly as, in many cases, the work is done without expectation of reward.

A variety of creatures live at Adyar — jackals, hares, monitor lizards, snakes, birds, butterflies, squirrels, insects and many other creatures, in addition to the diverse plant species. Adyar is a haven in which they live naturally without any threat to their lives or freedom. This was always one of the special features of the ancient ashramas and the spiritual centres, where harmlessness permeated the atmosphere. Harmlessness was cherished and practised as a way of life by all who took to the reclusive life. It was believed that not even dangerous beasts would attack a person who is wholly free of aggressive impulses and is truly gentle and peaceful.

The feeling for life in any form is the foundation for the acquirement of spiritual knowledge. To every creature its life is precious; every creature seeks freedom. The ant as much as the elephant or the human being wants to avoid being trapped, injured or destroyed. In the depth of their consciousness, which is the one all-pervading consciousness, there is



awareness that life in every form, great or small, is part of a cosmic scheme, by which Divine Will moves all beings towards the unfoldment of their own latent and hidden divinity and perfection. Therefore, no creature, from man to the minutest mite imprudently rushes to its destruction. All of life seeks to live in order to learn and to reach perfection. Keeping this in mind, the religious person completely avoids causing injury to any creature in any kingdom, if it is within his or her power to avoid it.

Injury can be done not only with the hands or with material weapons; there is injury when thoughts and emotions rooted in ego-sense result in disregard of other lives, when they embody animosity and greed, when they poison the psychic atmosphere. A spiritual centre is one where no hurt is sought to be caused either by thought, word or deed, and where therefore there is an atmosphere of deep peace, penetrating into the consciousness of any who come within the precincts and ambience of the centre. Adyar is such a centre, whose spiritual power and peace many visitors experience. Every theosophical Lodge and centre can also be a haven of peace, a sanctuary in which all desire to hurt or destroy is subdued and ended.

In *At the Feet of the Master*, the Master says that the qualification of love means two things in daily life; the first is to be careful to do no hurt to any living thing. A centuries-old teaching of sages was summarized in a

phrase well known to all Indians, corresponding to the motto of the Theosophical Society: *ahimsā paramo dharmah* (harmlessness is the greatest of virtues), because the practice of it in daily life opens the way for the sublime quality of love to enter into the heart. Christmas is just over, recalling afresh that the birth of Christ is the birth of Divine Love within the heart.

We are living in an age of unsurpassed violence, cruelty and lack of concern for others. The harm that human beings do to each other and to Nature's other children — animals, birds, fish, plants — is indescribable! It may be a long time before wisdom and true knowledge pervade human consciousness and teach it to love. Without waiting for this far-off event, let us help ourselves and humanity in general to learn to live with goodwill, gently, simply, without the hardness born of misconceptions about each other and callousness in regard to non-human forms of life. All of us are on a common journey to perfection. Harmlessness as a spiritual way of life needs to be restored. It is a value that can begin the process of human regeneration. Let us consecrate ourselves to the spirit of gentleness, reverence for life, and respect for each other and for the cosmic plan. Then, one day we may find we have become worthy channels for the spiritual love which the Master said is the most important of all the qualifications.

Radha Burnier





**THE TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**AND**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 MARCH 1996**



## TREASURER'S REPORT 1995-96

The Income and Expenditure of the Society for the year ending 31 March 1996 reflects a surplus of Rs. 102,821/-.

The net expenditure of the departments for the year is Rs. 2,015,469/- as against Rs. 3,201,725/- for the previous year. This fall in the expenditure is mainly due to reduced spending in the Maintenance Department. Efforts are being made to complete ongoing capital projects during this financial year. Several major buildings in the estate such as Raja House in the Headquarters Building, Administrative Office and Blavatsky Bungalow will be renovated in the coming year and accordingly additional provision has been made in the budget for 1997-98 taking inflation also into account.

The working result of Leadbeater Chambers is satisfactory. However, Bhojanasala continues to run on a deficit, mainly resulting from boarding charges for members and workers which are subsidized. The deficit in the garden during this year has come down from Rs. 351,471/- to Rs. 329,728/-; general maintenance continues to be the major item of expenditure.

During the year, the amount spent on charitable work was Rs. 598,002/- which included Rs. 462,839/- on education and Rs. 111,399/- on free medical aid and the Dispensary. It is expected that the amount projected for education will go up steeply in 1997-98 in view of the need to provide additional facilities for children in the Olcott School. The expenditure on charitable work will also rise significantly when the animal welfare centre is established in the near future.

The net expenditure on propagation of Theosophy is Rs. 663,384/- compared to Rs. 643,551/- for the previous year. In respect of Adyar Library and Research Centre, the net expenditure has gone up from Rs 184,739/- to Rs. 339,522/- for the year. Although, the deficit for this year from *The Theosophist* and *Adyar Newsletter* account has come down to Rs. 23,127/- from Rs. 60,809/-, this trend is unlikely to continue as a result of the mounting cost of printing. It is also expected that the current level of spending at Rs. 92,983/- in the Archives and Museum will increase as restoration of art works and paintings has been taken up.

In respect of the Vasanta Press, the production account has shown a surplus of Rs. 67,047/- and the net deficit has come down to Rs. 92,199/- from Rs. 192,822/-. This is mainly due to increased receipts and better control on overheads. The Publishing House activities have resulted in a surplus of Rs. 567,767/- for the year under review.

Income from investments for the year was Rs. 5,575,043/-, an increase of Rs. 836,314/- over the previous year. Interest rates continue to be attractive and therefore income from investments will improve to enable us to meet the outlay on capital projects and increased establishment and other costs for maintaining

the estate.

The State Government has been approached to grant complete exemption from the levy of property tax, but as a measure of abundant caution, a sum of Rs. 1,065,972/- has been provided from 1993-94 onwards and a suitable adjustment will be made in the accounts as and when the matter is settled.

Although the amount spent on capital account for the year is only Rs. 728,143/-, we expect a significant increase on this account as the dining hall for Leadbeater Chambers and several new office and residential premises at Besant Gardens are expected to be completed within the next few months. In addition, the computerization project of the Adyar Library and Research Centre has been taken up, as also capital works in other departments involving considerable outlay of funds. In the current year, we anticipate incurring expenditure up to Rs. 3 million on these projects and a further sum in excess of Rs. 4 million in the following year.

The internal control system and procedures are receiving attention and suitable measures are being initiated in this direction.

The overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. During the year, the Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund has gone up from Rs. 27,357,042/- to Rs. 27,361,041/- and Other Funds from Rs. 28,519,517/- to Rs. 35,492,407/-.

On behalf of the Society, I express my gratitude for the continuing support of the members throughout the world.

Chennai  
14-12-1996

D.K. GOVINDARAJ  
*Hony. Treasurer*



# THE THEOSOPHICAL

## BALANCE SHEET AS

Year ended 31-3-1995	LIABILITIES	Schedule No.	Year ended 31-3-1996	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
	<b>General Fund:</b>			
21,468,713	Balance as per last Balance Sheet ...		23,320,332	
1,650,101	Add: Transfer from Adyar Estate Improvement Fund ...		42,588	
75,718	Add: Surplus for the year ...		102,821	
125,800	Add: Capital receipts on redemption of Units from Unit Trust of India		203,775	
23,320,332				23,669,516
27,357,042	Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund ...			27,361,041
28,519,517	Other Funds ...	5		35,492,407
2,552,144	Current Liabilities and Provisions ...	6		2,998,665
81,749,035				89,521,629

# SOCIETY, ADYAR, MADRAS 600 020

AT 31st MARCH 1996

Year ended 31-3-1995	ASSETS	Schedule No.	Year ended 31-3-1996	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
17,392,262	<b>Fixed Assets</b> ...	1		16,617,189
	<b>Investments: (At Cost)</b>			
	Fixed Deposits in Scheduled Banks			
	Financial Institutions, Public			
	Sector Undertakings and			
51,735,216	Units with Unit Trust of India ...			57,583,420
	<b>Current Assets, Loans and Advances:</b>			
1,778,176	Stocks ...	2	1,932,938	
1,816,941	Sundry Debtors ...		611,617	
7,968,426	Cash and Bank Balances ...	3	12,250,052	
1,058,014	Loans and Advances ...	4	526,413	
				15,321,020
81,749,035				89,521,629



# THE THEOSOPHICAL

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-1995	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-1996	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
	<b>Departments: (Net Expenditure)</b>		
46,397	Bhojanasala ...	75,673	
351,471	Garden ...	329,728	
(81,669)	Leadbeater Chambers ...	(218,976)	
2,885,526	Maintenance ...	1,829,044	2,015,469
	<b>Charitable Work:</b>		
23,289	Animal Welfare ...	18,443	
991,118	Education ...	462,839	
12,866	Distress Relief ...	6,441	
71,442	Free Dispensary and Medical ...	111,399	
15,620	School Fees and Books ...	14,050	
60,072	Social Welfare Work ...	13,483	
128,249	T O S International ...	1,500	
19,649	Scout Camping Centre ...	—	
12,720	Others ...	18,120	
		646,275	
-142,939	<i>Less: Transfer from Other Funds</i>	48,273	
	<b>Propagation of Theosophy: (Net Expenditure):</b>		598,002
184,739	Adyar Library and Research Centre ...	339,522	
60,809	The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter ...	23,127	
192,822	The Vasanta Press ...	92,199	
66,223	School of the Wisdom ...	62,394	
26,354	T. S. Workers' Training Camp ...	1,228	
13,668	Information and Public Relations ...	19,693	
87,047	Archives and Museum ...	92,983	
11,889	Theosophy Science Centre ...	42,466	
		664,612	
—	<i>Less: Transfer from Other Funds</i>	1,228	663,384
	<b>International Offices:</b>		
31,636	President and Vice-President ...	35,157	
165,320	Treasurer ...	181,830	
102,377	Secretary ...	122,773	339,760
	<b>Establishment:</b>		
93,775	Headquarters ...	94,528	
42,279	General Manager's Office ...	50,194	
80,271	Movable Properties Department ...	121,262	
88,993	Sanitation Department ...	125,096	
384,673	Security Department ...	478,389	869,469
6,026,686	c/f		4,486,084

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1996

[illegible]



## THE THEOSOPHICAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-1995	EXPENDITURE—Contd.	Year ended 31-3-1996
Rs.		Rs.
6,026,686	b/f	4,486,084
	<b>Other Expenses:</b>	
3,208	Insurance Premium ...	1,890
3,489	Legal and Court Expenses ...	11,693
32,507	Audit Fees ...	38,849
29,726	Rates and Taxes ...	1,115,789
1,203	Bank Charges ...	950
1,658,455	Depreciation ...	1,088,498
35,614	Motor Car Expenses ...	39,065
33,256	Miscellaneous ...	703,645
—	Adyar Estate Improvement Fund ...	600,000
		3,600,379
75,718	Surplus transferred to General Fund ...	102,821
7,899,862		8,189,284

**MADRAS**  
15-11-1996

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1996

[illegible]



# THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-1998

## EXPENDITURE

## INCOME

	Rs.		Rs.
<b>Departments (Net Expenditure)</b>		<b>Propagation of Theosophy</b>	
Bhojanasala	... 87,000	Theosophical Publishing House	... 351,000
Garden	... 352,000	General Donations	... 300,000
Leadbeater Chambers	... 2,000	Interest	... 7,300,000
Maintenance	... 3,073,000	Membership Fees and Dues	... 1,400,000
		Licence Fees	... 84,000
		Miscellaneous Receipts	... 200,000
<b>Charitable Work</b>			
Animal Welfare	... 200,000		
Education	... 1,200,000		
Distress Relief	... 50,000		
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	... 120,000		
TOS International	... 50,000		
School Fees and Books	... 30,000		
Social Welfare Work	... 216,000		
Scout Camping Centre	... 30,000		
<b>Propagation of Theosophy</b>			
Adyar Library and			
Research Centre	... 741,000		
The Theosophist and			
Adyar Newsletter	... 53,000		
The Vasanta Press	... 98,000		
School of the Wisdom	... 75,000		
Workers' Training Camp	... 24,000		
Information and Public Relations	... 24,000		
Archives and Museum	... 180,000		
Theosophy Science Centre	... 36,000		
<b>International Offices</b>			
President and Vice-President	... 50,000		
Treasurer	... 200,000		
Secretary	... 136,000		
<b>Establishment</b>			
Headquarters	... 120,000		
General Manager's Office	... 60,000		
Movable Properties Department	... 150,000		
Sanitation Department	... 150,000		
Security Department	... 600,000		
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Insurance Premium	... 6,000		
Legal Expenses	... 18,000		
Audit Fees	... 40,000		
Rates and Taxes	... 400,000		
Motor Car Maintenance	... 60,000		
Miscellaneous	... 60,000		
Depreciation	... 900,000		
Bank Charges	... 3,000		
<b>Excess of Income over expenditure</b>	... 41,000		

9,635,000

9,635,000

**FEES AND DUES RECEIVED**  
**(From 1 April 1995 to 31 March 1996)**

Name of the Section		1994-95	1995-96
		Rs.	Rs.
The Theosophical Society in Africa, East and Central	...	—	—
"	Africa, South	1,868	—
"	Africa, West	—	2,440
"	America, Central	3,120	3,462
"	Argentina	84,240	1,62,552
"	Australia	79,632	87,134
"	Austria	10,786	10,694
"	Belgium	28,122	31,444
"	Bolivia	5,273	13,409
"	Brazil	80,947	—
"	Canada	4,460	3,450
"	Chile	3,337	15,838
"	Colombia	2,968	—
"	Cuba	—	—
"	Denmark	2,167	5,477
"	England	—	2,12,555
"	Finland	32,668	42,396
"	France	—	1,00,400
"	Germany	—	92,795
"	Greece	—	7,395
"	Hungary	—	3,169
"	Iceland	16,644	17,435
"	India	31,516	37,674
"	Indonesia	—	7,158
"	Ireland, North	—	—
"	Ireland	—	2,544
"	Italy	57,795	1,715
"	Mexico	—	—
"	Netherlands	71,016	76,118
"	New Zealand	59,013	16,219
"	Norway	—	7,411
"	Pakistan	—	—
"	Peru	7,323	8,142
"	Philippines	—	—
"	Portugal	4,765	11,068
"	Puerto Rico	—	—
"	Scotland	2,837	5,676
"	Slovenia	—	—
"	Spain	—	51,881
"	Sweden	16,019	39,201
"	Switzerland	—	—
"	USA	3,06,450	2,80,780
"	Uruguay	19,352	20,718
"	Venezuela	2,185	2,388
"	Wales	1,655	1,386
Lodges attached to Adyar	...	47,147	38,671
Fellows at large	...	20,254	13,187
		10,03,559	14,33,982





## HEADQUARTERS

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INDIA





## OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 1996

### Executive Committee:

1. Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>
2. Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Vice-President</i>
3. Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>Secretary</i>
4. Mr D.K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>
5. Mrs Norma Y. Sastry	<i>General Council Member</i>
6. Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>
7. Mr K. Visvanathan	
8. Mr R.M. Tolani	

**General Manager:** Mr R.M. Tolani

**Adyar Library:** *Director:* Dr K.K. Raja  
*Librarian:* Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam

**Bhojanasala:** Mr R. Kalyanasundaram

**Garden:** Mr N.R. Narayanan

**Information:** Mr C. Seshadri

**Leadbeater Chambers:** Mrs Uma Nilakanta

**Maintenance:** Mr Kousik Krishnan

**Medical and Sanitary:** Dr Mrs Susheela Oza

**Movable Properties:** Mr D.V. Subramanian

**Museum and Archives:** Ms Idarmis Rodriguez

**School of the Wisdom:** *Director:* Miss Joy Mills (Jan.-March. 1996)  
Prof. H.J. Arnikaar (Oct.-Dec. 1996)

**Security:** Lt. Col. T.P. Raj Kumar

**Theosophical Publishing House:** *Acting Manager:* Mr D.K. Govindaraj

**The Theosophist:** *Assistant Editor:* Mr G. Naganathan

**Vasanta Press:** Dr N.C. Ramanujachary

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### OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

*Chairman:* President, TS

*Acting Secretary:* Mr D.K. Govindaraj

*Treasurer:* Mr K. Visvanathan

**Olcott Memorial School:** *Headmistress:* Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan

**HPB Hostel:** Ms Gayathri Devi

**Social Welfare Centre:** Mrs Radha Muthiah



# SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1996

National Societies and Sections	34
Regional Associations (formed under Rule 35 (c))	4
Presidential Agencies	10
Total Lodges and Study Centres	1,211
Total Membership 1995	29,356
Total Membership 1996	29,119

Section/Area	No. of Lodges and Study Centres	No. of Members
1. Africa, East & Central	15	518
2. Africa, South	5	245
3. Africa, West	15	317
4. America, Central	6	96
5. Argentina	28	335
6. Asia, South-East	6	188
7. Australia	13	1,400
8. Austria	3	127
9. Belgium	8	120
10. Bolivia	8	81
11. Brazil	53	886
12. Canada	6	96
13. Chile	4	69
14. Colombia	8	85
15. Costa Rica	4	90
16. Cuba	12	667
17. Denmark	1	38
18. England	50	1,163
19. Finland	24	542
20. France	31	471
21. Germany	10	209
22. Greece	7	188
23. Hungary	—	38
24. Iceland	9	313
25. India	445	10,801
26. Indonesia	14	395

Section/Area	No. of Lodges and Study Centres	No. of Members
27. Ireland, North	3	32
28. Ireland, Rep. of	1	14
29. Italy	52	1,136
30. Mexico	23	308
31. Netherlands	14	527
32. New Zealand	14	1,338
33. Norway	5	46
34. Pakistan	3	146
35. Peru	2	45
36. Philippines	15	239
37. Portugal	12	237
38. Puerto Rico	6	66
39. Russia	—	7
40. Scotland	8	164
41. Slovenia	3	56
42. Spain	14	346
43. Sri Lanka	6	82
44. Sweden	7	205
45. Switzerland	5	86
46. USA	131	4,179
47. Uruguay	5	77
48. Venezuela	4	31
49. Wales	2	48
	<b>1,206</b>	<b>28,893</b>

## Lodges attached to Adyar

1. Covenant Lodge (Israel)	1	40
2. Japan	3	84
3. Korea	1	20
4. Fellows-at-Large	—	82
	<b>5</b>	<b>226</b>

## THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

The Theosophical Publishing House has maintained steady progress. It brought out a number of reprints, new editions of long out of print books and new books during 1996. The design of books reprinted has been improved so also the quality of paper. Although, the cost of inputs has gone up considerably in the recent past, the Publishing House is making every effort to bring down the selling price of books.

The Editorial Department is functioning smoothly and the equipment connected with the pre-printing work is being modernized. In the publishing house, the computerization of operational areas such as billing, inventory and accounts has been taken up and is expected to be completed during 1997. To improve communications and efficiency, we have added fax machine and other equipment such as electronic franking

machine, computers etc.

Apart from 12 reprints, the new editions and new books brought out during the year is as follows:

### New Edition:

*The Gospel of Islam* — Duncan Greenlees

*Reincarnation & Islam* — Nader Baig Mirza

*You* — G.S. Arundale

### New Book:

*Evidence of a Yogic Siddhi, Anima: Remote Viewing of Subatomic Particles* — Stephen M. Phillips

Under the Book Gift Scheme, several lodges and individuals were supplied with books.

MR D.K. GOVINDARAJ  
Manager

## THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Library activities proceeded satisfactorily. A special volume (No. 59) of *Brahma vidya*, the Adyar Library Bulletin, was issued to commemorate the birth centenary of Professor C. Kunhan Raja, who was Curator of the Library and General Editor of its publications for many years. A function was held on 24 March 1996 in the Headquarters Hall at Adyar to release the volume. After a welcome and the chanting of Vedic mantras by Dr R. Thangaswamy Sarma, the

Director of the Library, Dr K. Kunjunni Raja, outlined the life work of Dr Kunhan Raja. Then Dr Frits Staal spoke on his outstanding scholarship and distinguished academic work. Besides the above-mentioned volume, the publications of the Library during the year included: a reprint of *The Philosophy of Bhedabhedha*; a revised edition of the *Chandogyopanishad*; *Pancaratra-raksha*; and three booklets with the following titles: *Paushkaragama*, *Vedic*



*Science to Vedanta, and Astronomy and Mathematics in Kerala.*

Work continues on the Colloquium summary and other texts mentioned in the last report. The Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts on Astronomy, Mathematics, etc., in the Adyar Library is in the press.

As usual, the Library rendered service to many scholars and institutions. Photocopies were supplied to a large number of research students totalling 53,552 frames, out of which 920 were of palm-leaf manuscripts, 957 of paper manuscripts, 8,532 of transcripts, and the others of books supplied to scholars as well as those made for the Library's own use.

Classification and cataloguing work continued during the year: 2,056 books were catalogued and 916 were new accessions. Books were received as gifts from the President's Office, the Theosophical Publishing Houses in

Adyar and Wheaton, and several other donors.

Conservation work continued including de-acidification, lamination, repairing, and binding. During the year 1,052 books were thus treated.

The Library has 238 readers and 430 borrowers. The number of books borrowed was 5,640. Manuscripts consulted were 1,374 and books consulted were 27,322. Research scholars from many universities in India and abroad made use of the Library.

A good deal of preliminary work was done with a view to computerize the Library with the assistance of Mr Carlos Cabral, computer systems engineer from Mexico. Information has been obtained from various libraries and vendors about software and hardware systems.

Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam  
*Acting Librarian*

### THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

As usual two sessions of the School were held in 1996. The January-March session had as its theme 'Studies in the Mahatma Letters' conducted by Miss Joy Mills from 5 February to 20 March. Over forty students from nine countries overseas and several parts of India registered for the session. During the month of January there was a course on 'Discipleship, the Mahatmas and the Path' by Mrs Radha Burnier, Miss Mary Anderson, Mr Surendra Narayan, Mr Pedro Oliveira and Mr

G.K.R. Patri.

The October-December session attracted a score of participants from ten countries. Its theme was 'Modern Science and Ancient Wisdom'. The faculty included Prof. H.J. Arnikaar (Director), Dr S. Inamdar, Prof. C.T. Phan, Prof. P. Krishna, Dr V.V. Chalam, and Dr C.A. Shinde. A wide range of topics was presented including latest developments in various fields of science and the cosmic process of evolution.

## ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

**M**rs Kyllikki Vuorinen from Finland spent some months recataloguing the photographic collection and Ms K. Jayashree of the Adyar Library staff carried out conservation work to safeguard legal documents of the TS on a part-time basis for a few months.

Material from the Archives was supplied to researchers on the life of

Annie Besant and for a television video about the Banyan Tree. Ms Idarmis Rodriguez was designated Officer-in-Charge as Mr Conrad Jamieson had been appointed to the office of Secretary.

The Museum was opened for arranged visits by members and students of the School of the Wisdom.

## OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

**T**he work of the Olcott Education Society proceeded along the different avenues mentioned in previous reports.

### Olcott Memorial High School

The School reopened on 12 June 1995 with a strength of 748 boys and girls and a teaching staff of 34. The free-breakfast scheme was extended to all the students of the School. A number of workshops were held to improve teaching skills and six teachers were sent to the Rishi Valley School to study their rural education programme and teaching methods.

Forty-eight students appeared for the school final examination in March 1996 and fifty percent passed. Continual effort is being made to improve the academic level of the children who come from very poor families and are handicapped by living in surroundings which do not encourage the educational process. The Craft Centre and resource centres for the Primary and Middle Schools

are equipped with educational toys, games and other materials. The support given by the British Council for the teaching of English and various other projects helped to improve the learning capacity of the students. Teachers and students also participated in the activities of the annual international Convention of the TS.

Mr Roger McClay, Associate Minister for Education from New Zealand, and Ms Cathie McGregor, New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner in India, visited the School on 15 March 1996 and were very appreciative of the work and atmosphere. Later, the Government of Tamilnadu was pleased to give permanent recognition to the School, which was pending after the change-over from the category of a government-aided school to a non-aided, non-fee-collecting school.

### HPB Hostel

The Hostel now functions in the renovated tiled-roof building in Besant



Gardens. Smt Gayatri Devi was appointed Warden in June 1996. Mr R. Gopalaratnam is Chairman of the Hostel Committee. Members of the T.S. continue to contribute generously to this work.

### **Social Welfare Centre**

The Welfare Centre, which caters to about 150 nursery class children functions smoothly under the guidance of the Superintendent, Mrs Radha Muthiah. Periodical medical check-ups have been carried out by doctors who have volunteered to do this work. All the children were given a free set of clothes besides being provided daily with breakfast and lunch.

The products of the tailoring and weaving section were exhibited for sale during the international Convention. The benefits go to the women who receive training in that section. The children also gave an entertainment programme to the delegates which was much appreciated. Ten of them took part in a television programme which was broadcast on 11 July 1996.

### **Banyan Centre for Education**

Regular meetings with teachers and Principals were organized. The following three broad areas for future action emerged from a discussion

between a few Principals and teachers:

- \* Programmes promoting reflection on significant educational ideas, such as: What is true culture? Does the school have a role in preserving it?

- \* Campaigns in favour of crucial issues, for example: Should a child in primary school carry such a heavy curriculum load that it kills all joy of learning? Is dissection of animals necessary for learning Biology?

- \* Seminars/Forums, etc., that could be hosted by different schools.

Mr G. Ananthapadmanabhan, teacher at the KFI School, offered a series of workshops for a group of 30 teachers from 13 schools for a period of six months. They brought together practitioners in the field who arrived at a collective perspective, and a report was circulated. It is hoped this intensive exercise has influenced the schools that participated.

The campaign against dissection in schools continues. Initially teachers held strong views about dissection as a 'must'. But the matter is being pursued and meetings will include demonstrations of alternatives to dissection and computer packages that are effective. The campaign is steered by Mrs Prema Veeraraghavan and Mr Ananthapadmanabhan of the KFI School.

## **THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE**

**T**he TOS focuses on various forms of service to try to put into practice the ideals of theosophical philosophy. Its approach is broad and welcomes workers from diverse backgrounds,

whether or not they are members of the TS. The international bulletin, *The Service Link*, provides articles on the philosophy underlying the TOS in addition to covering practical issues

and suggestions for service. The aim is to help forge stronger links amongst workers around the world.

Countries where the TOS is functioning vigorously, or relatively vigorously, include: Australia, England, France, India, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sweden, and the United States. The organization is also active in Brazil, Italy, Spain, Wales and West Africa. Certain Sections are represented informally by a 'Correspondent': Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Hungary, Indonesia and Norway.

In the course of 1996, the ritual of

the League of Healing was re-published and copies of the new edition distributed to all TOS National Directors and TS General Secretaries. A positive response was received to this initiative. The healing ritual is being performed by many individuals and groups around the world.

Plans for 1997 include putting the TOS on the Internet. It is hoped that in this way more people can be reached. A special issue of *The Service Link* is planned on the theme of animal welfare.

Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin  
*International Secretary, TOS*





## REPORTS OF GENERAL SECRETARIES

### AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

## REPORTS FROM SECTIONS, NATIONAL SOCIETIES, REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES, ETC.

(Where necessary, reports have been translated,  
edited or condensed.)

### AFRICA, SOUTH





## REPORTS OF GENERAL SECRETARIES

### AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

**T**he Section comprises Lodges in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. There has been a decline in membership due to the emigration of members of Asian origin, with no corresponding increase in membership from the local population.

Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam Lodges have varied programmes twice weekly in English and Gujarati. Other lodges held weekly meetings, studying theosophical books. Most lodges celebrated important TS days. Seminars and camps were organized in some places.

The Kenya Region organized a week-long workshop on 'Exploring the Nature of God' from the polytheistic and monotheistic points of view with

speakers from different religions. The workshop created considerable interest and participants were especially impressed with the 'Theosophical World View'.

National lecturer Mr Reuben Thuku has primarily been addressing schools and other educational institutions in Kenya as other regions are finding it difficult to organize his programmes.

All the three regions have well-stocked bookstalls. Several lodges are active in TOS work and some twenty different charitable and relief groups were assisted with medicines, school supplies, clothes, foodstuffs and blankets.

Mr Bhupendra R. Vora  
*General Secretary*

### AFRICA, SOUTHERN

**S**outh Africa is going through a convoluted process, changing the whole fabric of society into a new dynamic culture with many positive and negative results. The Section has been active in promoting a greater awareness of its existence and objects amongst all sectors of the population, with encouraging results in attendance figures.

We had a very successful National Convention in Johannesburg during Easter weekend on the theme 'Healing our Planet'. For the first time we had a good cross section of the religious and

population groups which make up our diverse culture. Our guest speaker was Bhupendra Vora, General Secretary of the East and Central African Section, who also travelled to the Durban, Capetown and Pretoria Lodges, giving well-received lectures.

A new Theosophical Centre was started in Lenasia, organized by Mr Ebrahim Mohamed, a new member of the Indian community, which we hope will become a chartered Lodge in the near future. Gifts of books for the Centre have been received from Lodges and the Adyar T.P.H. Ebrahim



converted part of his house to accommodate a library and an area big enough to hold regular meetings and discussion groups. I would like to record our sincere appreciation of his efforts.

T.O.S. work has continued with counselling for people with serious difficulties, as well as donating to various charitable groups.

### AFRICA, WEST

**A**t long last the ground floor of the Section's headquarters building at Accra was completed and the 39th Annual Convention was held in this TS building from 28 June to 1 July 1996 on the theme 'Evolution, A Necessity to Self-Discovery'. A weekend seminar was held in the eastern part of Ghana on 28-29 September 1996, on the theme 'Living Theosophy' and was a great success.

The sale of TS books was very encouraging. We are reprinting some

We have improved our publicity by advertising in magazines, being represented on television and radio by prominent TS members, and through video and audio tape libraries. Some lodges issue local Newsletters, while the Section magazine appears annually.

Mr T.G. Davis  
General Secretary

of the information leaflets sent from TPH Adyar. Several lodges hold regular study meetings.

The Section Library benefited by a personal donation of US \$ 100 from Dr John Algeo and book gifts from Adyar. Some lodges engage in TOS work, and a special room in the Section Headquarters building has been reserved for Healing Services.

Mr Paul B. Kwakyl  
General Secretary

### AMERICA, CENTRAL

**W**e now have 96 active members. Lodges organize weekly public meetings, and also hold regular study meetings as well as special meetings to welcome new members. Mr Alfredo Puig from the Inter-American Federation lectured in Costa Rica in

May 1996. We celebrated all the TS anniversaries. The General Secretary kept in contact with the lodges. The annual convention was held in El Salvador from 15-17 November 1996.

Miss Carmen Aguilar Alvares  
General Secretary

## ARGENTINA

The General Secretary visited all the Lodges at least once. Public activities included lectures, audio-visual programmes, courses, and workshops. New study groups have been started and all the Lodges hold regular meetings. There are weekly radio programmes in three cities.

A Summer School was held in February in the TS Centre at San Rafael with the theme 'Searching together in the Truth of the Ages'. TS members from Brazil, Chile and Paraguay also attended. On this occasion, a new General Secretary, Mr Jorge Cesano,

was elected. The Winter School held in July in San Rafael consisted of a retreat for three days on 'The Practice of Silence', followed by a seminar on 'Man and his Spiritual Development' conducted by Paulina Palmeri and Juan Cassibba.

In August about sixty persons attended a study of the Mahatma Letters in San Lorenzo. The young Theosophists organized many successful activities in different cities.

Mr Jorge Cesano  
*General Secretary*

## AUSTRALIA

We bade farewell to Miss Joy Mills who finished her term as National President and returned to the USA in January 1996. She was the principal speaker at our Annual Convention in North Adelaide with the theme 'Walking the Reverent Way'.

Thirty-one students attended the two-week School of Theosophy in Springbrook on *The Secret Doctrine* conducted by Joy Mills during April 1996. An extra session was arranged during the year to allow as many members as possible to benefit from her expert guidance. The Section aided some TS members from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and New Zealand to participate.

In October 1995, Alan Senior from Scotland conducted the first Australian Video School as part of his

lecture tour of the Section. Twenty TS members participated. Newspaper publicity has elicited many enquiries and several enrolments in the Correspondence Course. All seventeen publicity leaflets were reprinted during the year, as well as the Section Centenary Souvenir booklet.

We now have 1,400 members. In addition to the thirteen lodges and six study groups, theosophical activities continue at the Mt. Helena Retreat Centre in Western Australia, the Springbrook Centre in Queensland and The Manor in Sydney. The TOS in Australia helped several projects, including education of underprivileged children in India and Pakistan.

Mrs Beverley Champion  
*General Secretary*



## AUSTRIA

The participants in this year's 'Study and Meeting Days' in Rohrbach enjoyed a particularly harmonious week, the theme being 'Esoteric Knowledge in Daily Life'. Miss Mary Anderson held a seminar on 'The Influence of *The Secret Doctrine* on Daily Life'. Other interesting lecture topics included 'The Art of Living', 'Undeserved Suffering — Intricacies of Fate', 'Trust Yourself to Life', and 'Steps on the Path of Spiritual

Growth'. Free time was devoted to deepening personal contacts during that week of practical brotherhood.

Work in the three lodges at Vienna, Linz and Graz included regular meetings and study evenings at some of which explanations of theosophical literature were offered, seminars and yoga classes.

Mr Franz Durkowitsch  
General Secretary

## BELGIUM

Work continued smoothly in the four branches in Brussels and four in provincial towns. A regular Theosophy study course in French, held fortnightly in Brussels and monthly in Liege and Charleroi, attracted ten to twenty participants on each occasion. Blavatsky Lodge in Brussels studied *The Key to Theosophy*.

The general campaign against 'Sects' in the Belgian press does not particularly attract the public to the TS, but it makes it more widely known

than ever before! It can no longer be ignored! Having less members or sympathizers able to give public lectures, we organized colloquiums on subjects pertaining to the general teachings of Theosophy or on J. Krishnamurti's teaching. These are held fortnightly and prove more attractive now even to the members, who come to know each other better.

Dr H. van der Hecht  
General Secretary

## BRAZIL

The Section held its sixteenth Summer School in Salvador from 21 to 28 January 1996 on the theme 'Theosophical Thought and the Science of Yoga' based on I.K. Taimni's book, translated into Portuguese. The national Spring Gathering was held in

the Raja Centre at Sao Paulo from 12-15 October 1995. Another aspect of the work was regional gatherings — taking into consideration the great geographical distances in the country — one in Belo Horizonte and another in Sao Paulo.

At the Brasilia Institute of Theosophy the second International School of Theosophy was held from 2 to 11 July 1996. A seminar on 'Theosophy applied to Social Reconstruction' was also conducted at the Institute from 14 to 18 July by Mr Ricardo Lindemann. From 14 to 21 July a Youth Camp took place there with 36 youngsters from different parts of Brazil and ten from Argentina. In the last week of January 1996, 30 Brazilian members travelled to Rio Cuarto, Argentina, for meetings.

Brazilian members also participated in the summer school of the Argentine Section held in San Raphael.

Several theosophical books were translated and published by the TPH in Brazil; others were reprinted. Our Department of Education published a booklet on tenets of Theosophy to be sent to TS Lodges and Study Groups.

We have 886 members in good standing.

Mr Ulisses Riedel de Resende  
General Secretary

## CHILE

The Section has four lodges and one Study Group. Theosophy is presented through public talks, forums, panels, videos or artistic events. Theosophical anniversaries are celebrated. During the year guest speakers were Mr and Mrs Juan Carlos Palmeri from Argentina.

The annual convention of the Section was held on 28 July 1996 when Carlos Ramirez Lohaus was elected General Secretary. The Section journal *Revista Teosofica Chilena* is published quarterly, consisting prim-

arily of translations from *The Theosophist*. The introductory course in Theosophy for new members and the general public continues with good results. There is a Second Level Course in Theosophy and a workshop for members. Correspondence is being carried on with students in some cities. There is a Library and bookstore in Santiago. TOS work is being started.

Mr Carlos Ramirez Lohaus  
General Secretary

## COLOMBIA

No report

## CUBA

The Lodges in Havana continued their study classes on various books, e.g. *Human Regeneration*, *The Voice of*

*the Silence* and *The Secret Doctrine*. Lodges in Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara and Sancti Spiritus study



similar subjects.

The 92nd Annual Convention was held on 20-21 January 1996 on the theme 'The Wisdom of the Secret Doctrine: A Path to the Heart'. After several speakers had dwelt on various aspects of the theme, a lively discussion followed. At the concluding meeting, Dra. Lelia Fernandez, General

Secretary, presented a 'Reflective Meditation: The Path of the Heart'. All the theosophical anniversaries were celebrated. The basic Theosophical Knowledge Course is continuing with good attendance..

Dra. Lelia Fernandez Pagola  
General Secretary

## ENGLAND

There are 42 Lodges and seven Centres in the Section with a membership of 1,163. In the headquarters at London a varied programme of lectures, seminars and meditation meetings continues. Study courses on *The Secret Doctrine* and other subjects are regularly held. The larger Lodges have weekly meetings for members and enquirers.

The Summer School this year took place at Ripon in Yorkshire and attracted 125 persons, Dr John Algeo,

National President of the TS in America, was the guest speaker. The theme was 'The Western Mystery Tradition'. A weekend seminar was held in June at Tekels Park on 'Modern Science and the Esoteric Philosophy' with Dr Yves Marcel of France as guest speaker.

In June, the Subba Row Medal was presented to Geoffrey Farthing by the International President, Mrs Radha Burnier.

Miss Lilian Storey  
General Secretary

## FINLAND

Public lectures are given regularly in Helsinki. The Summer School was held in Kreivila, as usual, with two guest speakers, Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu and Prof. Henryk Skolimowsky from Poland, on the theme 'Man as a Part of Nature and the Universe'. Two new members from Blavatsky Lodge in Tallinn, Estonia, participated, being given scholarships by the Finnish Section. The Section journal *Teosofi* appeared six times during the year.

The annual convention was held in May 1996. Mr Hannu Vienonen and other members from Finland have been lecturing regularly in Tallinn and other cities in Estonia, where a magazine *Theosofi* is also being published. *Practical Occultism* was published in Estonian. There are 23 Lodges in Finland and one in Estonia.

The Finnish Section has taken part annually in the 'Spirit and Knowledge Fair' which is attended by several

thousand people. The Section had a bookshop at the fair. A 'Spiritual Independence Seminar' was held in December 1995 in the Helsinki headquarters with several lecturers and about sixty participants. At a weekend in Kreivila in August on the theme 'Meeting with Different

Cultures', we had the opportunity of listening to representatives of the Buddhist, Sikh, Muslim and Taoist religions.

Mrs Kirsti Elo  
General Secretary

## FRANCE

There were weekly public meetings in Paris. Regular courses, lodge meetings and Krishnamurti video shows also took place. On the first and third Sundays public lectures were given. The National Convention was held on 1-2 June with Mr Reynold Welvaert from Belgium as guest speaker. The magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* appeared regularly. Various changes of an administrative nature have taken place, especially in respect of the French publications of 'Editions Adyar'.

The General Secretary toured three African countries — the Congo, Togo and the Ivory Coast — giving fifteen lectures over three weeks and meeting members in groups at different places.

He also took part in a television programme in Brazzaville (Congo). There is considerable interest in Theosophy in these countries. The General Secretary advised them to ask to be attached directly to Adyar as Regional Associations, as they can thus fix their annual dues at a lower level. France will continue to help them.

In June-July, quite a number of our members attended the French-speaking regional Summer School in Switzerland. The publishing house closed its printing department, but the bookshop is active.

Prof. C.T. Phan  
General Secretary

## GERMANY

There is need to extend public awareness of the Society and its aims. Constructive work in the East German provinces continues but with little result as yet. Following the 1995 meeting of all Theosophical groups in Dresden, to clarify common interests,

another meeting is planned to develop co-operation in preparation and sharing of the work.

The summer school in July at Weimar had as its theme 'Theosophy: Tradition and Innovation'. The guest speakers were Miss Mary Anderson and



Dr Yves Marcel.

The German Language School of Theosophy in October 1995 provided five days of intensive study of *The Secret*

*Doctrine* as well as practical and group work for the twenty participants.

Ger Baron v.d. Osten-Sacken  
General Secretary

## GREECE

No report

## ICELAND

Activities have been similar to earlier years. As usual there is a variety of study and practice available for those interested in self-culture and meditation. The weekly public lectures attract 40 to 60 persons and cover a wide range of topics — philosophical, religious, psychological, mystical and metaphysical. As in previous years, an eight-week 'Self-Culture and Meditation' Course was held for beginners, open to the public. During the past five years, ten of these courses attracted a total of about 550 newcomers.

A three-day Kriya Yoga course in May 1996 was attended by over a hundred

persons. The 22 revised 'Letters to New Members' are mailed monthly to 70 members who joined since 1993. The library was re-arranged and opened for members only.

Our summer school was held from 27 to 30 June. The number of subscriptions by non-members to the Section magazine *Gangleri* which is in its seventieth year is three times as great as subscriptions by members. Sixteen new members joined during the year. The General Secretary and Board were re-elected at the general meeting held on 18 May 1996.

Mr Einar Adalsteinsson  
General Secretary

## INDIA

The Section endeavoured to reflect the spirit of unity in its work during the year. A better team spirit at the Section Headquarters helped to render more prompt service to individual members, Lodges and Federations.

The 105th Annual Convention of the Indian Section was held at Adyar on 27 and 30 December 1995 with Miss Mary Anderson, the International Vice-President, in the chair. Inaugurating

the Convention, Mrs Radha Burnier, the International President said: 'Democracy means that every citizen must learn to be responsible. The existence of widespread irresponsibility is a symptom that Indians have not realized what is crucial to democracy. As members of the TS in India it is our duty to evoke a deep sense of responsibility which alone can take the country forward.'

I visited twenty-four Lodges and the National Lecturers also made tours to conduct study courses and seminars. A book, *Inspiring Thoughts of Mrs Annie Besant*, was released on her birthday on 1 October 1995 by the International President. Thirty-six public meetings were held during the year at the Headquarters. Two books, *Self-Culture* by I.K. Taimni and *The Voice of the Silence*, were also studied.

The annual study camp at Bhowali was held from 20 May to 9 June 1996 with 35 participants. Mr G.K.R. Patri conducted studies on *The Path of Discipleship* in the morning and Mrs Malati Pandya on *Light on the Path* in the afternoon. Mrs Burnier conducted a week-long study camp at Headquarters (29 September-3 October) on Taimni's *Self-Culture*, attended by 120 members from eight Federations. She was the chief guest at several Federation conferences.

The seventy-third South Indian Theosophical Conference was held at Adyar on 5-7 April 1996, attended by more than one hundred and forty delegates. The theme 'Life's Deeper

Aspects' was explored through lectures, a symposium and short talks followed by in-depth discussion. The annual Workers' Training Camp was held at Adyar on 9-31 May 1996 with twelve participants. A special issue of the Section journal *The Indian Theosophist* was brought out in July 1996 with more than sixty articles. Several of the sixteen Federations of the Section publish their own journals in ten different languages.

Shortage of workers continues to be a problem in the work at the Headquarters. Several Federations are in need of support in order to improve the quality of their journals, for translation work, the training of workers, repairs to buildings, etc. A long-term policy for assistance is yet to be evolved.

The Section is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Annie Besant in a year-long programme throughout India which will culminate on 1 October 1997.

Mr M.P. Singhal  
General Secretary

## INDONESIA

The Section organized a successful exhibition of books on Theosophy (both in English and in the local language) during our annual meeting in Jakarta from 5 to 7 April 1996. The main speaker, Mr Iskander Nugroho, a historian, outlined the role of TS members in awakening national consciousness in Indonesia in the

early years of this century.

We started implementing a plan to provide each lodge and study group with the seven theosophical manuals. Among publications issued were *Man and His Bodies* and *Seven Principles of Man*.

Mr H.M. Soesiswo  
General Secretary



## ITALY

The year has been a very active one for the TS in Italy. At the end of the millennium we can consider how theosophical tradition has influenced world thought — especially in the concept of 'unity of life' which is the only way towards Brotherhood. At the same time we have to face unjustified attacks against the TS in Italy by careless scholars and superficial journalists classifying it among dubious sectarian organizations. Concerning this we strongly underline the ethics of our Society.

Four new Lodges were founded last

year and two dissolved. Several publications were brought out, including two books by the Honorary General Secretary, Mrs. E. Bratina. Together with the European Federation, the Section organized a sixth seminar at Treviglio in March 1996, with the participation of about sixty members. The 82nd annual convention of the Section was held at Perugia from 13-16 June, attended by more than a hundred members.

Mr Antonio Girardi  
General Secretary

## MEXICO

Contact was maintained with all the Lodges and three new Lodges were formed.

Visits to the Section were made by the President of the Inter-American Federation, Mr Alfredo Puig Figueroa, and Dr John Algeo, President of the TS in America. Lectures were regularly held at the Section Headquarters in

Mexico City.

The Summer School theme was 'Mysteries, Secrets, Stories and Truths'. Regional seminars were held to study the Mahatma Letters, Fundamental Principles of Theosophy and *A Study in Consciousness*.

Ms Lissette Arroyo Jimenez  
General Secretary

## NETHERLANDS

Our activities attract more people. In November 1995 we had a weekend on 'Rules on the Path' with 40-60 participants. In March 1996 we had a day on 'Gnostics' with more than 100 participants. Our summer weekend on 'Becoming Conscious' was attended by 60 persons. In Amsterdam we have a

national *Secret Doctrine* study group for which 30 persons have registered. In some Lodges deeper study has become possible. Some Lodges are successful with 'round the table' meetings when open discussions are held on various aspects of Theosophy and daily life.

We published a translation of *Yama and Niyama* by S.S. Varma and *Right Living in Modern Society*, a compilation of lectures by Prof. P. Krishna. The lectures on *The Voice of the Silence* by Joy Mills entitled *Inner and Outer Transformation* in Dutch will be ready

for mailing very soon. We send these publications to all Sections around the world. One of our members is working on a history of the Dutch Section during the past hundred years.

Mrs Ali Ritsema  
General Secretary

## NEW ZEALAND

Our Centenary Convention was undoubtedly the highlight of the year with several prominent guest speakers: Mrs Radha Burnier, Miss Joy Mills, Mrs Diana Dunningham-Chapotin, and Mrs Beverley Champion. A special Centenary issue (March 1996) of *Theosophy in New Zealand* included articles on the early history of the New Zealand Section with photographs. During November 1995 Alan Senior, accompanied by his wife Margaret, toured all our Lodges. Another guest speaker was Mr Charles Marresh from Sydney who conducted a three-day weekend seminar at the Headquarters on 'Yoga, the Ultimate Goal of Every Soul' which was well attended. He also toured the country, speaking at most of our branches.

We hold regular monthly afternoon meetings at Headquarters which are especially popular with retired members. Following each quarterly

Executive Committee meeting attended by Lodge Presidents and proxies a wide range of matters pertaining to our theosophical work are discussed.

The series of letters to new members continues to be appreciated by the recipients. Our promotional handbook *Probing the Mysteries of Existence* by Mr J.G. Patterson is still in demand. The 'suitcase bookshop' has continued to supply books for sale at Lodges on a sale or return basis. Headquarters maintains its countrywide postal library service. The video library is very popular.

We look forward to an expansion of our work in the coming year. The HPB Lodge in Auckland, with the largest membership in the Section, will be completing its fine new building early next year.

Mr Gavin F. Laurie  
General Secretary

## NORWAY

In Oslo monthly meetings are held with an average attendance of fourteen people. Videos have been sent from

Oslo to the Lodges. Our magazine has been given a new format and the name changed to *Teosofi i Tiden*, which



means something like Theosophy in the current time and also in eternal time. Seventeen introductory letters to new members have been updated for mailing each month. The welcome to new members from Radha Burnier has been reprinted and used regularly. A one-day seminar on 'What is Theosophy?' was held in Oslo in August. About 18 people attended this

very successful event, and hopefully this is the beginning of new initiatives. We plan to start a study group on Patanjali's Yogasutras in January 1997. We are a small group working systematically to improve the Norwegian Section and we are determined to succeed in that.

Mr Torstein A. Tobiassen  
*General Secretary*

### PHILIPPINES

Several Self-Transformation seminars held for members and non-members resulted in the preparation of a module which was sent to various groups. Due to shortage of facilitators, we are now in the process of training some suitable persons for this work.

Four new study groups were formed during the year. We have been asked to be part of the regular training programme for trainers of Girl Scouts in the Philippines, Rizal Chapter. The National President conducted sessions with public and private school teachers

in Tagaytay City on Values Formation and Character Development.

We are presenting two regular radio programmes — entitled 'In the Light of Theosophy' and 'Golden Lessons in Living'.

The fourth Southern Regional Conference was held from 12 to 14 April at Bacolod City. Numerous public lectures took place in the TS headquarters and outside in provincial cities.

Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr.  
*General Secretary*

### PORTUGAL

We had a small increase in membership which now totals 235. There is increased interest in Theosophy in the more qualified groups and younger people, and our magazine is appreciated by professors and people in the medical field.

We have study groups in the Islands

of Azores and Madeira. A *Diary of Azores* publishes theosophical articles. We have some members in cities of Portugal where Theosophy was never heard.

Dr Humberto Alvares da Costa  
*General Secretary*

## PUERTO RICO

Work in the Section followed the pattern of earlier years — public meetings, seminars, workshops, study classes, etc. Our bulletin was published quarterly, listing activities in the headquarters and in lodges.

A successful seminar on astrology was held in July with Mrs Blanca

Hernandes Lupion from Spain. Lodge Universal Flame organized a lecture on Natural Health and a cultural trip to the Ponce Museum and to the Indian Park Tribes.

Mrs Magali Polanco  
General Secretary

## SPAIN

Lodges and Groups are holding public meetings and basic Theosophy courses once a week as well as members' meetings to study classical Theosophy. The Annual Convention was held 24-31 August with Miss lanthe Hoskins and Mr Geoffrey Farthing from England as guest speakers who lectured on *The Mahatma Letters*, with about 150 members participating.

A seminar on 'The Key to The Voice of the Silence' held on 5-7 April in Madrid attracted participants from different parts of the country and the Annual Assembly was held on 6 April. The HPB Institute established last year organized various courses on Theosophy for members and non-members in Madrid.

Barcelona, Alicante, Caceres and Cordoba.

Our journal *Sophia* has a wide distribution, not only in Spain, but in Spanish-speaking countries. It carries articles translated from *The Theosophist*, specially those by Mrs Radha Burnier. Another item for wide distribution, especially to new members, is a brochure entitled 'The Essential Work of the Theosophical Society'. The TOS in Spain continues to be active. Mr Fernando Perez Martin is the new coordinator, succeeding Ms Margarita Lopez Ferrer who is no longer able to continue this task.

Miss Maria Carmen Cesar Galante  
General Secretary

## SRI LANKA

The activities of the Society in Sri Lanka are mainly concentrated at its Headquarters in Colombo with good attendances of members and non-members. Lectures and discussions are

held on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. Four Newsletters were published during the year. The Shanthi Marga Lodge in Galle was revived in May 1996 and regular meetings are



held on the last Sunday of every month. Efforts will be made to revive the Sri Ram Lodge in Jaffna which became inactive due to the disturbances there.

The TOS in Sri Lanka extends financial help to an orphanage and the

School of Integral Education for Youths. We have also built up contacts with sister organizations, especially Buddhist groups.

Mr Melwin Herath  
General Secretary

## SWEDEN

**L**odge activities included many lectures on various theosophical themes, also study groups on *The Voice of the Silence*, Theosophy in everyday life, *The Secret Doctrine*, discussions on the teachings of Krishnamurti, and also meditation. In October 1995 there was a mini-school in Orebro, when nineteen participants studied some of the lectures at the European Congress followed by discussion. At the summer school in May 1996 on the theme 'The Interplay between Outer and Inner Development' Prof. P. Krishna was guest speaker with 32 participants. Some of our members attended a Theosophical Retreat in the Norwegian mountains in August. In August, G. Gautama from Adyar was guest speaker

at a seminar arranged by the Young Theosophists.

Our journal *Tidlos Visdom* (Timeless Wisdom) is issued quarterly. Translation of theosophical books is proceeding. Next to be printed will be *Ancient Wisdom — Modern Insight* by Shirley Nicholson. Future publications will include *No Other Path to Go* by Radha Burnier, a new edition of *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Ancient Wisdom* by Annie Besant. Three folders on Theosophy and the Theosophical Society are ready for printing. Our bookshop is active, operated by voluntary workers. Our TOS has helped an orphanage in Latvia.

Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund  
General Secretary

## SWITZERLAND

**S**everal Lodges in Geneva have organized book sales to attract young people. The Basle Study Centre has

been meeting monthly.

Mr Edwin Nathan  
General Secretary

## U.S.A.

**A**ctivities in the Section were vigorous, with Lodges and Study

Centres presenting a variety of programmes for members and the

public. Federations are successful in bringing together members in their geographical areas. Camps and regional centres have had good attendance. Several new Study Centres were certified and others are progressing towards certification. The content and form of the Letters to New Members were thoroughly revised.

The annual meeting and summer school held in the Headquarters in July 1996 had Mrs Radha Burnier, the International President, and Miss Joy Mills as guests. Some dozen other speakers contributed a variety of programmes. I was re-elected as the National President.

Two new endeavours were launched during the year: the setting up of a Website on Internet and the inauguration of a National Lodge. Our Web page gives basic information about the TS and a dozen other sublinked pages on membership, correspondence and self-study courses and programmes of the Section. The National Lodge will operate by mail, by the Internet, and by area meetings. It does not replace local groups, but supplements and enriches their work.

Olcott Institute offered 70 programmes and other regional centres a total of 64 events covering a

wide range, from classes in yoga, t'ai chi, and meditation to weekend workshops and seminars. We also acquired some 50 new videos for use by lodges, study centres and members.

The Olcott Library provided research assistance to a number of academic and personal researchers.

Our TPH published several new titles during the year, and produced a handsome and comprehensive new catalogue of Quest Books.

The Audio-Visual Department recorded and edited 38 new audio titles in 56 programme tapes. These include audio tapes of *At the Feet of the Master* and *Light on the Path*. The *Eternal Quest* television series now includes 18 programmes available for distribution to television stations. We also edited eight new titles on 16 videotapes, many from last year's summer meeting.

Over the years, the Kern Foundation has been a major source of support for various activities of the Section — most recently our newly-established Web page. Practically every educational and programmatic activity we have is the beneficiary of support from the Foundation.

Dr John Algeo  
National President

## URUGUAY

Lectures, courses and workshops attracted increasing audiences. Themes included 'Ancient Wisdom and Modern Science', 'Introduction to Theosophy', 'Symbology' and 'Different Ways to Health'. Lodges continued

study classes. A youth group is active. A monthly video programme is followed by lively discussion. The radio programme 'New Humanity' on Saturday mornings results in enquiries. A new study group in



Maldenado is meeting regularly, and an evaluation of this group's work will be made before the end of the year.

A workshop for members was held by Ms Thelma Cestau on the theme 'Sharing Theosophy'. Members' talks were given by Mrs Elides Nunez de

Alvares on 'Our Work as Members' and by Mrs Dolores Gago de Fuerte on the Mahatma Letters. Twenty-two new members were welcomed at a special meeting.

Ms Thelma Cestau  
*General Secretary*

## REPORTS OF REGIONAL SECRETARIES

### CANADA

**L**odges continue to hold regular meetings and study sessions. Blavatsky Lodge in Vancouver had two visiting speakers: Mrs Shirley Nicholson in March, who gave a public lecture and conducted a workshop; and Mrs Radha Burnier in August, who spoke at a public meeting on the subject 'Towards

a New Civilization'. This was a very special occasion for the members as the majority of them had not previously had the opportunity of meeting the International President.

Mr Hugh Jackson  
*Regional Secretary*

### IRELAND, NORTHERN

**D**uring the year ended we managed to hold our usual Sunday Public meetings and our normal Member's Meeting on Wednesdays.

Attendance averaged about eight people on a Sunday and about four members came to meetings on Wednesday.

We had to rely on members to provide talks and readings at Sunday meetings. At the Wednesday meetings we studied the Teachings of Ramana Maharshi and the Writings of J. Krishnamurti. The dual nature of man

was discussed at great length at some of these meetings.

We managed to keep the Member's Meetings going during the summer months which was a time of great tension and violence.

We are hoping that after the U.K. Elections are over things may get better. However the members are to be praised who supported us during these difficult times.

Mr John Doherty  
*Regional Secretary*

## SCOTLAND

The TS in Scotland is now a Regional Association. Membership stands at 164 in seven active lodges. Our magazine *Circles* has not been published since Spring 1995. It is planned to bring out an issue early in 1997 in a reduced, less expensive format. Large-scale repairs to property were made.

The Lodges held regular meetings covering an interesting range of

subjects, assisted by visiting speakers from England. Dr John Algeo, National President of the TS in America, visited Edinburgh. Three members from Glasgow attended the English summer school held at Ripon in July 1996. Several lodges held study classes, including one on *The Key to Theosophy*.

Mr Walter Roy  
*Regional Secretary*

## SLOVENIA

Two of the Lodges hold weekly meetings and discuss basic theosophical publications. In the third lodge there are fortnightly meetings, apart from which members keep in contact with each other by correspondence and receive study material regularly from the Lodge

President.

The theme for the Summer School was 'Nothing without You'. Our magazine, *Theosophical Thought*, was published thrice.

Dr (Mrs) Cveta Staric  
*Regional Secretary*

## WALES

Work continues at a quiet rate in two Lodges. Cardiff Lodge meets at Headquarters and public meetings are held fortnightly. Study groups for members continue as well as fortnightly members' meetings. Colwyn

Bay Lodge meets on Friday evenings. We shall continue with the work as well as we can.

Mr Charles E.M. James  
*Regional Secretary*



## REPORTS OF PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES

### ASIA, SOUTH-EAST

**S**ixteen new members joined during the year. As in the past, Singapore Lodge was very active under the guidance of its President Mrs Manize Sait with weekly public lectures, and study classes before the lectures. A small group of members meets on Wednesday for meditation and exchange of ideas on theosophical topics.

Selangor and Seramaban lodges in Malaysia also meet regularly, the former being more active. The

members, under the leadership of Mrs Padma Narayanan, are actively planning for the next Indo-Pacific Federation session in December 1997 at Kuala Lumpur.

Disturbed conditions hampered regular contacts in Bangladesh. Although the two lodges at Comilla and Chittagong meet periodically, no report of specific theosophical studies has been received.

Dr C.V. Agarwal  
*Presidential Representative*

### BOLIVIA

No report

### DENMARK

**W**hile Lotus Lodge holds regular meetings twice a month. Members studied *The Secret Doctrine* and *Truth, Beauty and Goodness*. There are small study groups at Aarhus and two other places.

Public lectures are held twice a month in rented premises in the central part of Copenhagen. The

lectures and other activities are advertised to the public and at the University of Copenhagen. A quarterly Newsletter in Danish and English is sent to all members. As mentioned last year, 'competition' from various new-age groups continues.

Mrs Edel Scharstein  
*Presidential Representative*

### HUNGARY

**T**he monthly public lectures attracted 30 to 40 persons. I was invited for lecture-discussions in Budapest, in two towns outside the city and in

Aras, Rumania. Connections were established with several organizations with similar aims, trying to cooperate in helping humanity. Two study

groups meet regularly. Visiting lecturers were Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu and Mr Curt Berg.

Publications in Hungarian during the year included *Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy*, *Life After Death* by C.W. Leadbeater and *The Bhagavad Gita*. The fourth issue of the periodical

*Teozofia* was brought out. A series of articles on Theosophy by one of our members, Dr Clara Minya, is being published in a psychological, quasi-occult monthly.

Mr Laszlo Reicher  
*Presidential Representative*

### IRELAND (Republic of)

This year we have started a regular programme of study meetings on Thursday night, and talks on general topics on Sunday afternoons. We have attracted a few new people to the

study classes and there is a possibility of increasing our membership.

Mrs W. Woods  
*Presidential Representative*

### PAKISTAN

There are three active Lodges in Pakistan — two in Karachi and one in Hyderabad (Sind) — holding public meetings and study classes. The bigger lodge in Karachi has 146 members and maintains a large, well-used library and free reading room. All the TS memorial days are duly celebrated. The two-week

visit in May 1996 by the International Secretary, Mr Pedro Oliveira, and his several public lectures and members meetings were greatly appreciated. We would be happy to have more such visitors to this country.

Mrs Gool K. Minwalla  
*Presidential Representative*

### PERU

There was a good public attendance at talks given in the TS on Life and Death and other subjects. Lectures were arranged in larger halls in the city when Alfredo Puig and Teresinha Franca from Brazil visited the country, attracting 80-120 people. They further conducted study classes for members, as did also Juan Cassibba and Paulina Palmeri.

Courses on Theosophy are being held both in the city centre and in the TS. It is hoped that the group at the Miroflores centre in the city will grow into a lodge.

A retreat was organized near Lima with the theme: 'The Search for Reality'.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar  
*Presidential Representative*



## RUSSIA

**S**eminars, dialogues and studies on basic Theosophy were held in various centres during the year. There were two television broadcasts. A successful Summer School was held in the Ural mountains for young people. A

two-day dialogue programme was attended by 300 participants from a School of Psychology. White Lotus Day was celebrated.

Mrs Nina Veligon  
*Presidential Representative*

## VENEZUELA

**A** monthly programme of public lectures presented at the Headquarters was well received. The Lodges at Caracas and San Juan de los Morros were visited by Alfredo Puig and Teresita Franco from the Inter-American Federation. Audiences of about one hundred attended.

Every month Ayda Monroy visits Valencia and San Juan de los Morros to assist the study groups. Fraternity

and Blavatsky Lodges at Caracas meet regularly to study basic Theosophy, as do other study groups. A meditation workshop was attended by seventy persons, including non-members. An Advisory Committee was appointed and a fund created for spreading Theosophy. The Round Table meets on Saturday afternoons at Caracas.

Miss Mariela Lasso Salas  
*Presidential Representative*

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## REPORTS OF FEDERATIONS

### EUROPEAN FEDERATION

**W**ork in the eastern countries of Europe proceeds slowly with small groups being formed and members being enrolled. Encouraging results have come from seminars held in Slovenia, Russia and the Ukraine.

Theosophical literature translated

into several languages is progressing for several countries.

At present in three countries, Latvia, Poland and Czech Republic we have no contact group.

Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu  
*Chairman*

## INDO-PACIFIC THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

The Australian Section of TS granted three scholarships to members of the Indo-Pacific Federation to attend the Australian School of Theosophy held in April 1996, conducted by Joy Mills — one each from Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Pakistan. They will grant two similar scholarships to attend the school in August 1997 at the Theosophical Centre in Springbrook, Southern Queensland.

A study group has been organized in Fiji Islands with the help of Bro. Melwin Herath of Sri Lanka.

Malaysia will host the next Indo-Pacific Conference in Kuala Lumpur and plans are progressing for the same.

The work of the TS in Japan is now headed by Jeff Clark. Their main focus has been the continued translation of theosophical books into Japanese.

Sri Lanka needs assistance in

reviving the work and has invited the President of the Federation for a lecture visit in 1997, to which he has agreed.

Work in Hongkong, Thailand and other areas are at a standstill now, except in Malaysia and Singapore. Dr C.T. Phan, General Secretary of the TS in France, is making efforts to get permission from the authorities in Vietnam to allow the activation of the TS there.

The Federation conducted a survey among its members on the services the different sections offer to inquirers and members. Some of them are not equipped to respond to enquiries. The Federation plans to assist in developing materials and methods to improve such services.

Mr Vic Hao Chin Jr.  
*President*

## INTER-AMERICAN THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

No report

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## REPORTS OF LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

### COMILLA AND KUSUM (BANGLADESH)

No report

### ISRAEL

We hold members' meetings every fortnight to study the fundamental

teachings of Theosophy, *The Mahatma Letters and Light on the Path*. We also



discuss ways to reach the public. There are two public meetings each month, starting with a guided meditation. Participation in these meetings varies from 25 to 50 persons. Once a month we also have a day of study and meditation, going by bus to a quiet, beautiful place in the mountains or in the desert. The atmosphere during these days is one of real brotherhood and joyous friendship among the 20-45 participants, most of them non-members.

Two seminars were held during the year: on 'Listen to the Heart of the Universe' on 6 October 1995 with about 120 participants and 'Living from the

Heart' on 8 April 1996 with about 160 people attending. We also held five introductory courses in Tel-Aviv with about 8-15 participants each and a meditation course in September with fifteen participants.

Four books were published during the year: *The Voice of the Silence*, *At the Feet of the Master* (a new translation), *Imagineering for Health*, and *The Art of Inner Listening*. Our magazine appeared regularly. A television programme 'Theosophy for Everyone' was presented five times and aroused much interest. As a result, I was interviewed on the radio about Theosophy and its aims.

Mr Abraham Oron  
President, Covenant Lodge

## JAPAN

In 1996 the work in Japan stayed on an even keel, with a slight increase in membership from 68 to 84 in three lodges: Nippon, Nagoya and Osaka. Regular meetings are held in all three lodges. I was elected to head the Nippon Lodge at the General Meeting in November. *Light of Atma*, our journal was given a new format as it reached its 500th issue in January 1997. A collection of William Q. Judge's essays on Occultism was published to mark

the centenary of his death. New publications are under preparation as there is heightened interest in Theosophy in academic circles and in the general public. A great deal of work remains in order for the movement really to get off the ground here, but there is a forward-looking attitude among the members, and the number of active co-workers is increasing.

Jeff Clark  
President, Nippon Lodge

## KOREA

No report

# **DIRECTORY**

**AND**

# **MINUTES**

**OF THE MEETINGS OF THE**

**GENERAL COUNCIL**



# DIRECTORY

## *Ex-Officio Members of the General Council*

*President: Mrs Radha Burnier*

*Vice-President: Miss Mary Anderson*

*Secretary: Mr Conrad A. Jamieson*

*Treasurer: Mr D. K. Govindaraj*

## National Societies, Regional Associations and Presidential Agencies

Date of Formation	Name of Section	General Secretary	Address
1947	Africa, East & Central	... Mr Bhupendra R. Vora	... 55A 3rd Ave., Parklands PO Box 48507, Nairobi, Kenya
1909	Africa, South	... Mr T.G. Davis	... 22 Buffels Rd. Rietondale 0084, Pretoria
1956	Africa, West	... Mr P.B. Kwakyi	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana
1929	America, Central	... Mr José Roberto Hernandez	... 05-109 San Salvador, El Salvador.
1920	Argentina	... Mr Jorge Cesano	... Rivadavia 533, 2200 San Lorenzo, Santa Fe
1990	Asia, South-East †	... Dr C. V. Agarwal	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010 India
1895	Australia	... Mrs Beverley Champion	... 4th Fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000
1912	Austria	... Mr Franz Durkowsch	... Altmühlweg 5/6, A-4810, Gmunden
1911	Belgium	... Dr H. van der Hecht	... 166 Rue de la Cambre, 1200 Brussels
1965	Bolivia †	... Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez	... Casilla de Correo 3911, Cochabamba
1920	Brazil	... Mr Ulisses Riedel de Resende	... Sociedade Teosofica no Brasil, SGAS Quadra 603, No. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasilia (DF)
1924	Canada *	... Mr Hugh Jackson	... 158 Crescent Rd. Apt. 311, Toronto, Ont. Canada M4W 1V2
1920	Chile	... Mr Carlos Ramirez Lohaus	... Casilla 3603, Santiago
1937	Colombia	... Mr Jesus Antonio Rojas	... Cra. 6, No. 56-40, Bogota-2
1997	Costa Rica †	... Mr Jaime Hernandez Hostaller	... Apdo 2986-1000 San Jose
1905	Cuba	... Dra Lelia Fernandez Pagola	... Lombillo 634, Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600
1918	Denmark †	... Mrs Edel Scharstein	... Kobmagergade 65, 2.th., 1150-Copenhagen K.
1888	England	... Miss Lilian Storey	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4EA
1907	Finland	... Mrs Kirsti Elo	... Vironkatu 7c2, 00170, Helsinki
1899	France	... Prof. C. T. Phan	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris
1902	Germany	... Ger Baron v.d. Osten-Sacken	... Freiligrath-Ring 6, D-40878 Ratingen
1928	Greece	... Mr P. Anagnostou	... 25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens
1907	Hungary †	... Mr Laszlo Reicher	... Bajcsy-Zsilinszky ut 51, H-1065 Budapest VI
1921	Iceland	... Mr Einar Adalsteinsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingolfstraeti 22, 121 Reykjavik
1891	India	... Mr M. P. Singhal	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010
1912	Indonesia	... Mr H.M. Soesiswo	... Jalan Oto Iskandardinata III/G. 336, Jatinegara, Jakarta 13340, Timur
1949	Ireland N. *	... Mr John Doherty	... 30, Hillsborough Drive, Off Woodstock Rd., Belfast BT 69 DS

1919	Ireland, Rep. †	...	Mrs W. Woods	...	31 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4
1902	Italy	...	Mr Antonio Girardi	...	Corso S. Felice e S. Fortunato 256, 36100 Vicenza
1919	Mexico	...	Ms Lissette Arroyo Jimenez	...	Ignacio Mariscal 126 Col. Tabacalera C.P. 06470 Mexico 1, D.F.
1897	Netherlands	...	Ms Ali Ritsema	...	Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam
1896	New Zealand	...	Mr Gavin Laurie	...	18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 3
1913	Norway	...	Mr Torstein A. Tobiassen	...	PO Box 2889, Toyen 0608 Oslo 6
1948	Pakistan †	...	Mrs Gool K. Minwalla	...	Jamshed Memorial Hall, M.A. Jinna Road, Karachi
1924	Peru †	...	Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar	...	Jr. Republic de Portugal 152, Brena, Lima-100, S.America
1933	Philippines, The	...	Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr.	...	Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City
1921	Portugal	...	Dr Humberto Alvares da Costa	...	Campo Martires da Pátria 69, r/c-Dto., 1150 Lisboa
1925	Puerto Rico	...	Mrs Magali Polanco	...	GPO Box 36-1766 San Juan, 00936--1766.
1994	Russia †	...	Mrs Nina Veligon	...	Pereulok Soviet House 4 Flat 56, 455036 Magnitogorsk
1910	Scotland *	...	Mr Walter Roy	...	28, Great king st., Edinburgh EH3 6QH.
1992	Slovenia *	...	Dr (Mrs) Cveta Staric	...	Celovska Cesta 99 B, SLO - 61000 Ljubljana
1921	Spain	...	Miss Maria Carmen Cesar Galante...	...	Virgen de Iciar 15 - 1° A, 28220 Madrid
1926	Sri Lanka	...	Mr Melwin Herath	...	24/A Shady Grove Av., Colombo 8
1895	Sweden	...	Mr G. Larson	...	Stroemkaralsvaegen 84, S-167 62 Bromma.
1910	Switzerland	...	Mr Edwin Nathan	...	9, Avenue Eugene-Pittard, 1206 Geneva
1886	USA	...	Dr John Algeo	...	PO Box 270, Wheaton, Ill. 60189-0270
1925	Uruguay	...	Ms Mercedes F. de Buscarons	...	Javier Barrios Amorin 1085 Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo
1953	Venezuela †	...	Miss Mariela Lasso Salas	...	Calle 59A No. 78-70, Santafe de Bogota Colombia, S. America
1922	Wales *	...	Mr Charles James	...	206 Newport Road Cardiff CF2 1 DI

The Council of the European Federation of  
National Societies

*Chairman:*

Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue de Pommiers,  
45000 Orleans, France

Inter-American Theosophical Federation:

*President:*

Mr Ulisses Resende, SGAS Quadra 603, No. 20  
(CEP-70200-630,) Brasilia (DF) Brazil.

Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation:

*President:*

Mr V. Haó Chin, Jr., Corner P. Florentino  
and Iba Streets, Quezon City, The Philippines



**Additional Members of the General Council**

MRS NORMA Y. SASTRY, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India  
(for 1994, 1995 and 1996)

MR CONRAD JAMIESON, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India  
(for 1995, 1996 and 1997)

MISS TRAN THI KIM DIÊU, 67 Rue des Pommiers, 45000 Orleans, France (for  
1995, 1996 and 1997)

MR GUIDO HASS, International Theosophical Centre, Valkeveenselaan 19, 1411  
GT Naarden, the Netherlands (for 1995, 1996 and 1997)

MR SURENDRA NARAYAN, X-7 Haus Khas, New Delhi 110 016, India (for 1996,  
1997 and 1998)

MISS JOY MILLS, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA (for 1996, 1997 and 1998)

MR CURT BERG, Sparrisbacken 63, S-165, Hasselby, Sweden (for 1996, 1997  
and 1998)

MISS IANTHE HOSKINS, 37 Victoria Hill Road, Hextable, Swanley, Kent BR8 7LL,  
England (for 1996, 1997 and 1998)

MR. S.S. VARMA, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras 600 020, India (for  
1996, 1997 and 1998)

DR HUGH SHEARMAN, 623 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LQ, U.K. (for  
1996, 1997 and 1998)

Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez, Transversal 19, No. 61-32 Bogota-2, Colombia  
(South America) (for 1997, 1998 and 1999)

Mrs Linda Harris, 484 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia (for 1997, 1998  
and 1999)

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## MINUTES

*Of the meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society held on  
Wednesday, 25 December 1996, at Adyar*

### PRESENT

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President (in the chair) and proxy for East Africa, South Africa, Cuba, Sweden and Uruguay</i>
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Vice-President and proxy for Austria, Brazil, Germany, Spain and Switzerland</i>
Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>Secretary and proxy for West Africa, Australia, Chile and New Zealand</i>
Mr D.K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr M.P. Singhal	<i>General Secretary, India, and proxy for Miss Ianthe Hoskins</i>
Mrs Ali Ritsema	<i>General Secretary, the Netherlands, and proxy for Norway</i>
Prof. C.T. Phan	<i>General Secretary, France</i>
Mrs Norma Sastry	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>Additional Member</i>
Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu	<i>Additional Member and proxy for Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Mr Curt Berg</i>

*Present by invitation as Observers:*

Dr C.V. Agarwal	<i>Presidential Representative for South-East Asia</i>
Mr Ricardo Lindemann	

The President warmly welcomed the members of the General Council, especially those who had come from far away.

The list of Proxies was read out as recorded above. The proxies sent by the following members of the Council were invalid: General Secretaries of TS in America, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Colombia, Central America and Miss Joy Mills (being in favour of members not present or already having 5 proxies); Argentina (blank); Puerto Rico (unsigned); England (not on valid form).

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held at Adyar on 25 December 1995, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed.



## 2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

### (a) *Scotland*

Rules having been drawn up, the T.S. in Scotland was certified as a Regional Association. Mr Walter Roy was elected Organizing Secretary.

### (b) *Greece*

For many years there has been difficulty in getting annual reports and accounts from the General Secretary. The Section has not included the essential elements in its Rules despite being informed that the General Council of the Society had decided that they should form part of the Rules of National Societies, Regional Associations, etc. Serious tensions have arisen between the President of Blavatsky Lodge, Mrs Aspasia Papadomichelaki, and the Council of the Section. Appropriate action may have to be taken after enquiry.

### (c) *Central America*

A Regional Association would soon be certified, composed of Lodges in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Costa Rica will become a Presidential Agency.

### (d) *New Zealand*

The problems in Christchurch Lodge seem to be on the way to settlement. Members' meetings are being held.

### (e) *Hungary*

No Lodge has as yet been chartered. The membership now totals 38, and it is desirable that one or two Lodges should be established.

### (f) *Vietnam*

Attempts to re-establish the T.S. in Vietnam are continuing. The authorities had indicated that approval may be given when some welfare work was started. A beginning has been made in this direction.

### (g) *Croatia*

Several members have been enrolled as Fellows-at-Large and a group is active.

## 3. Confirmation of Voting

### (a) *Confirmation of Voting on Amendment to Rule 36(d)*

The following amendment to Rule 36(d) of the Rules and Regulations of the T.S. had been circulated for voting (changes in italics):

#### *Rule 36 (d):*

If at any time the number of members in good standing of a National Society falls below seventy *or* the number of Lodges (Branches) falls below five the President may, at his discretion, withdraw its Charter.

The result of the voting was:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Invalid</i>	<i>Total</i>
33	2	2	1	38

Having received the required number of votes, the amendment was declared adopted.

*(b) Confirmation of Voting for Election of Mr D.K. Govindaraj as Honorary Treasurer*

The term of the Hony. Treasurer being due to expire on 31 December 1996, the President had re-nominated Mr D.K. Govindaraj to that office for another term under Rule 13 of the Rules and Regulations. The result of the voting was:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Invalid</i>	<i>Total</i>
34	—	3	1	38

Mr D.K. Govindaraj was declared re-elected as Honorary Treasurer of the Theosophical Society for the years 1997, 1998, 1999.

*(c) Election of Additional Members for the years 1997, 1998, and 1999*

The President had nominated Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez and Mrs Linda Harris under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Members of the General Council.

The result of the voting was:

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Invalid</i>	<i>Total</i>
Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez	35	—	2	1	38
Mrs Linda Harris	36	—	1	1	38

The two above named were declared elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999.

**4. Report of the Non-English Publications Fund Committee**

The Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson, reported that there had been no requests for a grant from the Fund during the year.

**5. Report of the International Finance Committee**

The Vice-President, Miss Mary Anderson, presented the report of the International Finance Committee for the year ending 30 September 1996.

**6. Report of the Executive Committee for the year ending 30 September 1996**

Salient points from the minutes of the Executive Committee were presented.



The following were appointed as members of the Executive Committee for 1997:

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Vice-President</i>
Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>Secretary</i>
Mr D.K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>
Mrs Norma Sastry	<i>General Council Member</i>
Mr K. Visvanathan	
Mr. R.M. Tolani	

#### **7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the Year ending 31 March 1996**

The Treasurer's Report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 1996, which had been previously circulated, were considered. It was noted that the overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. The report and accounts were adopted.

#### **8. Budget for the year ending 31 March 1998**

The budget for the year ending 31 March 1998, which had been previously circulated, was considered and adopted.

#### **9. Auditors for the year ending 31 March 1998**

Messrs Fraser and Ross were appointed as auditors of the Theosophical Society for the year ending 31 March 1998 on the same terms and conditions as previously.

#### **10. Proposal by the General Secretary of the Australian Section to reword the 'Freedom of Thought' Resolution**

After discussion the following wording was adopted to replace the original text of the 'Freedom of Thought' Resolution of the General Council in 1923:

'As the Theosophical Society has spread far and wide over the world, and as members of all religions have become members of it without surrendering the special dogmas, teachings and beliefs of their respective faiths, it is thought desirable to emphasize the fact that there is no doctrine, no opinion, by whomsoever taught or held, that is in any way binding on any member of the Society, none which any member is not free to accept or reject. Approval of its three Objects is the sole condition of membership. No teacher or writer, from H.P. Blavatsky downwards, has any authority to impose his or her teachings or opinions on members. Every member has an equal right to follow any school of thought, but has no right to force the choice on any other. Neither a candidate for any office nor any voter can be rendered ineligible to stand or to vote because of any

opinion held, or because of membership in any school of thought. Opinions or beliefs neither bestow privileges nor inflict penalties. The members of the General Council earnestly request every member of the Theosophical Society to maintain, defend and act upon these fundamental principles of the Society, and also fearlessly to exercise the right of liberty of thought and of expression thereof, within the limits of courtesy and consideration for others.'

## 11. Work around the World

### (a) *World Congress 2001*

After discussion, the theme 'In Tune with the Universe' was decided upon.

### (b) *Norway*

Difficulties have arisen because of the expansion into Norway of the activities of the dissident group in Denmark, which has appropriated the T.S. objects, motto and symbol, and are carrying on activities purported to be those of the genuine T.S.

### (c) *Europe*

In some European countries the T.S. has been classified as a sect, which unfortunately hinders its work.

### (d) *Mr Geoffrey Farthing's Manifesto*

Mr Farthing had circulated a manifesto to all members of the General Council and to many others containing his views on the T.S. and Theosophy. The President distributed a copy of her letter to him to the members present.

The consensus was that freedom of thought necessarily implies a wide horizon of thought and perception. Belief that the writings of H.P.B. and the Mahatma Letters constitute the only source of the message the T.S. should promulgate cannot be imposed on members, as such limitation goes against the grain of that freedom of thought. Each one must have the freedom to decide what best helps understanding of oneself and provides inspiration to work for the ideal of human progression and perfection.

### (e) *Fall in Membership*

There was a discussion on the subject during which the President pointed out that Theosophical teaching should not be made abstruse and theoretical. Profound truths and ideas can be presented in a simple and appealing way, relating them to the actual problems of life. References can be made to books which contain more metaphysical teachings for those interested in studying them. If Theosophy is not presented as a practical philosophy and view of life, many people would be impelled to search elsewhere because the present-day problems which affect people's daily lives and cause stresses of various kinds demand appropriate responses.









